

this monkey is riding a dog. that's just crazy.

Know what else is crazy? Our lack of female opinion writers. Alright, fine, I'll take a goddamn shower. But now that I'm clean you should come out to our **4pm Thursday meetings in SUB 3-04**.

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LAUREN ALSTON

Rapper Messiah would be bigger than Jesus



PAUL KNOECHEL

"Jesus rose from humble beginnings—you could almost call them ghetto, because he was born in a barn—to become the biggest celebrity of his age. He was just some carpenter's son, but he rose to the point where he had huge numbers of followers and even a devoted entourage."

After 2000 years, anything and everything begins to show its age—just look at those dingy old pyramids. What was once a hip and fresh way to spend your eternal slumber got old after a while—and the property values have started to reflect that. They made numerous attempts at a comeback—like cursing egyptologists in wild and wacky manners—but eventually, after a last-ditch effort failed to make them popular again by giving up the dead royalty inside to be gawked at in museums, the pyramids pretty much fell off the public's radar and are probably being scheduled for demolition to make way for a new Lululemon store (or so I would assume).

In much the same tragic sense, Jesus is starting to show his age. Don't get me wrong: he looks *amazing* for his 2000 years, but kids today are a fickle bunch. They obsess on the movies and the video games and the rap music, and the Jesus just doesn't seem to fit in, so he's beginning to go by the wayside. And I for one don't want to see Jesus demolished and replaced with a metaphorical Outback Steakhouse, so I've got Christianity's no-fail marketing strategy to bring him back to the youth of the world: market Jesus as the original gangsta rapper.

Before you go on and start scoffing at the notion or try to poke holes in my argument by saying that Jesus never "capped" anybody or "slang" any "rock," I think if you just give it some consideration you'll start to see that the similarities outweigh the fact that Jesus seems a bit too "vanilla" to be a gangsta rapper at his core.

Let's start with what Jesus was spitting. While he didn't have a mic stand, he took his act on tour. He travelled across all the lands and seas of the time, and everywhere he went, he would start throwing down hard lyrics about how the system had it wrong and that people should be following him to overthrow "the Man." And while I don't know if he had much music to accompany his stories, a lot of details get lost over the course of history, so you never know.

What can be said, though, is that his stories—or songs if you prefer—had him selling platinum ranking numbers of people on the idea of Christianity. Some of his songs even had a healthy dose of violence if you really want to draw some ties to the rap music of today. Admittedly, the story of the good Samaritan ends with a tale of charity and love, but it starts with some dude getting his ass rolled hard.

You've also got a lot of secondary details that really sell the point—after all, he was down with the sinners of the time. Also, Jesus rose from humble beginnings—you could almost call them ghetto, because he was born in a barn—to become the biggest celebrity of his age. He was just some carpenter's son, but he rose to the point where he had huge numbers of followers and even a devoted entourage. Not to mention that Jesus knew how to throw down, too. Sure, he was very mild-mannered for the most part, but when he saw the money lenders in the church, he grabbed a whip and kicked some ass Old Testament-style.

Finally, at the height of his fame, Jesus was taken down by a bunch of haters that couldn't stand how real he was. But just like Tupac and Biggie, the grave couldn't hold him, and he went on to have huge success in his game even after death. Jesus has got all the qualities of a gangsta rapper that will give him an appeal with the kids, but is lacking on things like drug dealing and marginalizing women that you might see with other stars in today's game, so parents will be happy too.

Now all the Vatican has to do is release some of his parables set to some fresh beats, and in two weeks they'll have a number one on the charts—plus mad sales of T-shirts proclaiming "JC is my homeboy."

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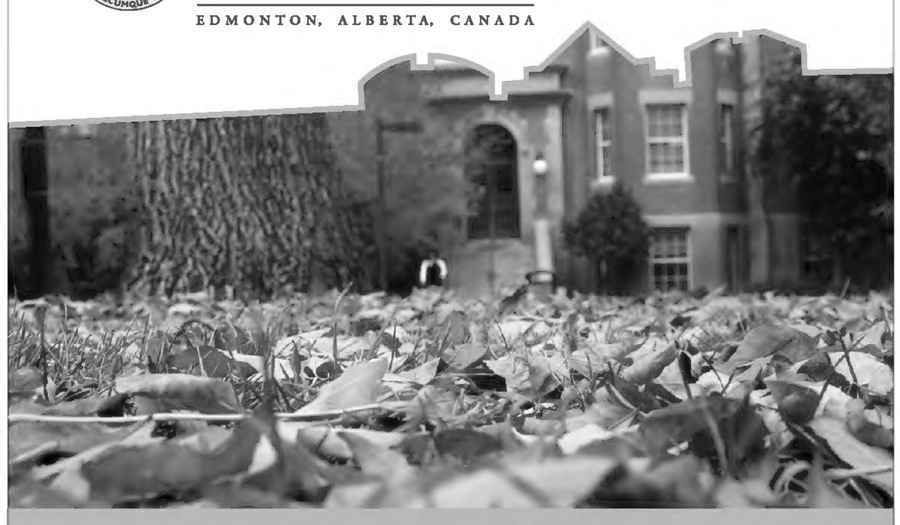
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Body Worlds: disrespectful disgrace or educational tool?

Nobody can own a corpse; they should be properly disposed of



ELIZABETH VAIL

point

Body Worlds promises to provide ticket payers with a unique, one-of-a-kind look into the glorious intricacies of the human body. The kicker, and probably one of the reasons for its success and popularity, is that it uses actual human corpses that were given with their previous owner's consent, preserved in plastic and rubber, dissected, and then put on display in numerous poses.

It didn't take long for the idea to give me a serious case of the heebie-jeebies—and even less time for me to condemn it as morally wrong. Sure, the "specimens" gave their consent, and in theory the exhibit is intended to educate and inform as well as entertain and turn a profit. But what it all boils down to is that Body Worlds is treating human bodies like property.

Western civilizations have long abandoned and condemned the practice of slavery, and the institution of marriage is no longer construed as an exchange of goods (I'll trade my child-bearing daughter for your farm by the river, please). The point behind society's changing ideas about these concepts is the emergent idea that the human body isn't an object that can be owned.

That includes the stage after the body is deprived of life. From the beginnings of society, we have traditionally dealt with corpses by way of interment, burial, cremation, or abandonment to the elements for natural decomposition. Bodies are no one's property to use while they're alive, and neither are they anyone's property when they're dead. Most major religions, including Christianity and Judaism, have laws for the respectful treatment of the dead for this very reason.

That's why there are implicit taboos against the mistreatment of corpses such as cannibalism and necrophilia. You can't eat that, it doesn't belong to you—and don't stick your dick in it either. Things like organ donation and the use of medical cadavers can be seen as exceptions, as they have immediate life-saving and improving results and the bodies are dealt with respectfully afterwards.

The main opposition to my stance on this has been the fact that the participants in Body Worlds gave their consent, but consent doesn't always justify an action. The reason our civilization has managed to survive as it has is because we've realized that sometimes personal consent has to be denied for the preservation of society as a whole.

Bodies are no one's property to use while they're alive, and neither are they anyone's property when they're dead.

A seven-year-old girl can consent to have sex with a 30-year-old man, but society will still charge him as a rapist. People consent and to do all sorts of things, but to maintain a civilized society it's necessary to deny consent when it's a threat to the moral fabric of society.

Body Worlds violates a key tenet of civilization by assuming ownership over a human body in order to use it for entertainment and profit. I believe that as a civilized people we shouldn't support this. I'll be voting with my dollars by keeping them far away from the Telus World of Science box office, and I encourage anyone tempted to see this show to undergo a thorough period of soul-searching first. Your curiosity isn't worth the objectification of a human being.

These cadavers were donated, and it's a great resource for learning



JONN KMECH

counterpoint

Without a doubt, the anatomical plastination technique at the heart of the Body Worlds exhibition, which has allowed for the public display of cadavers, brings along a number of ethical considerations that should be taken seriously.

It's not just a scaled-up version of "You guys wanna see a dead body?", encouraging citizens to poke corpses with sticks for amusement.

As someone who has attended the considerably more dubious Bodies ... The Exhibition, you want to know what kind of operation you're supporting. While that show was engrossing, the fact that the specimens came from China and were without documentation made me regret spending money on it. However, the Body Worlds exhibit is world-renowned due to both its educational benefits and the respect it gives to the people who donated their bodies.

As a physiology student, I can confidently say that thanks to the way science education works these days in elementary and secondary schools, the wonder inherent to scientific discovery has been replaced with a lot of book-learning and paperwork. Rarely does a display like this come along that can provide invaluable insight to a scientific topic in an exciting atmosphere that can't be conveyed in books. Such an exhibit has the potential to both teach the general public about the intricacies of the human body and inspire the next generation of health professionals and scientists. It's not just a scaled-up version of "You guys wanna see a dead body?", encouraging citizens to poke corpses with sticks for amusement.

Regardless, a rigorous degree of responsibility is required for an exhibit like this—after all they're making a profit by displaying human beings. But through Body Worlds' body donation program, participants are informed of all aspects of how their cadaver will be used when they voluntarily sign up and choose to have their remains become part of the display.

This isn't just about consent, as consent implies that the donors merely agreed with the idea of donating their body to science. This is a matter of choice—these people made it clear that they wanted their body to be on display to the public in this exhibit to help enrich the knowledge of others. An adult shouldn't be deprived of such an intensely personal decision about the fate of their own body post-mortem because it offends someone else's moral sensibilities.

The tradition of burial or cremation as respectful disposal of a body is simply that—a tradition—and it's based on standards that someone else conceived. If somebody doesn't hold similar views, they should be allowed to do what they want with themselves without having to conform to the self-righteous beliefs of others.

People who disagree with the display on moral or religious grounds have every right not to attend such an exhibit, as well as the right to protest it. Just don't look down on people who choose to attend because they want to learn. It's what the people in the display wanted, and not honouring that wish by forcing your own values down their throat would be the most disrespectful thing you could do to them in life or death.

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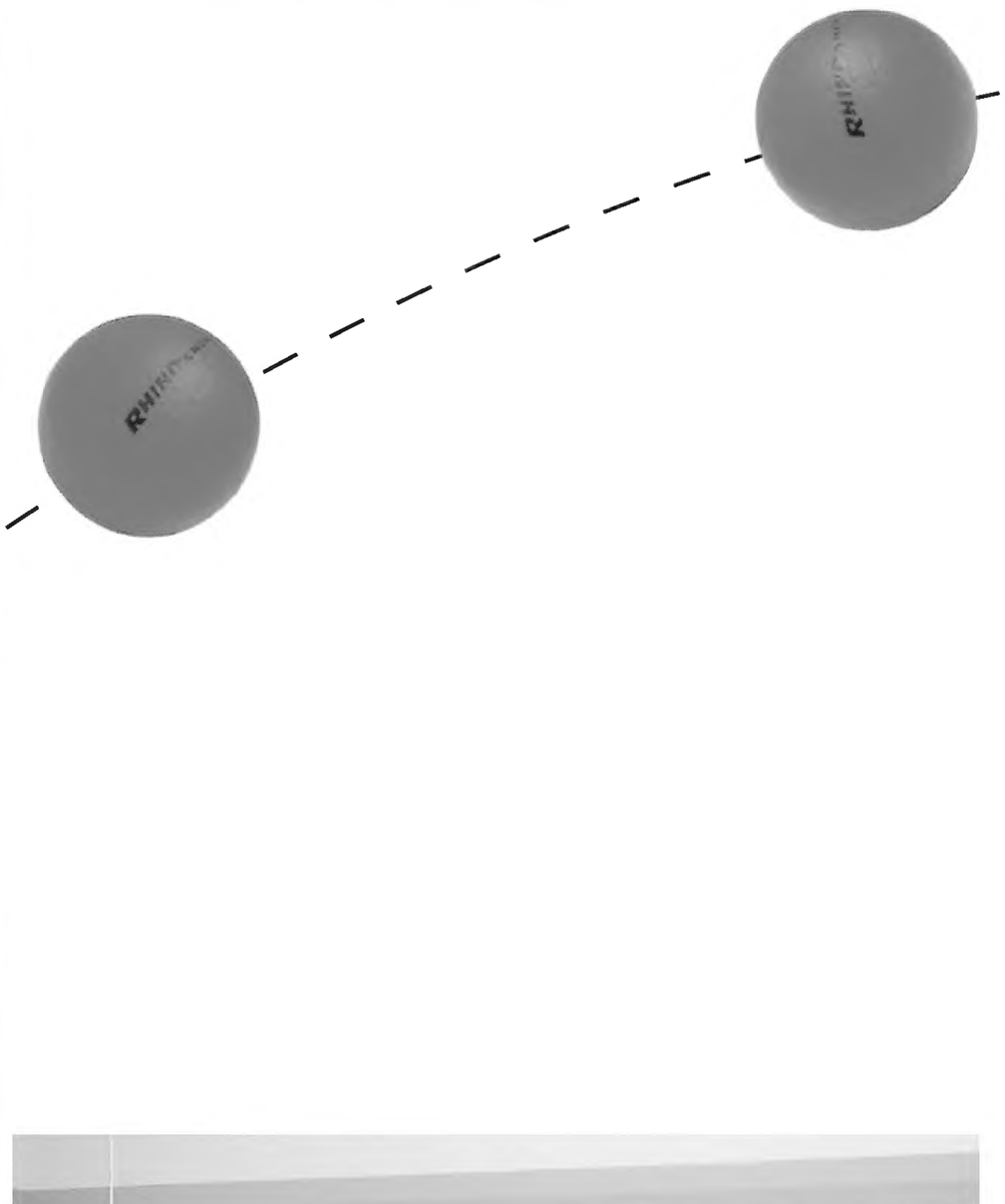
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DODGEBALL > LIFE



EXAMINING A LISTER OBSESSION, A&E EDITOR PAUL BLINOV CHARGES INTO THE LISTER DODGEBALL LEAGUE.

PHOTOS BY: STU TREBELCO AND MONICA LEON-QUINTERO



"Dodgeball is everything to everyone": the slogan for the Lister Dodgeball League seems interchangeable with any other concept (Pie could be everything to everyone, for example). But that little boast, which can be read off of any of the rainbow of dodgeball shirts around campus, probably isn't far from the truth in Lister. The league has more than 1500 active participants, a feat of participation that completely dwarfs any SU-run event—or even anything in the residence, for that matter. There's even been bubbling interest in the game outside of Lister—the Business Student's Association holds an annual tournament—though a league of such proportions remains exclusively for Listerites.

According to Chris Ford, the LDL's rules administrator, that massive involvement is just one of the many appealing things about the sport.

"One of the coolest things about it is there isn't [any other] Lister-wide competition, like the King Louis in the '70s and '80s," he explains. "In my first year, we had the Lister Olympics, but it wasn't well attended; there wasn't any spirit. But with dodgeball, anyone can play it."

The LDL started up in 2003/04, when a few organized Listerites put the newly constructed David Tuckey Gym to good, healthy, ball-whipping use with dodgeball's maiden season. Since then, the league has just kept on expanding: now, every floor in Lister partakes in weekly sessions of everyone's favourite grade six gym class game. But at the university level, it's not just dominated by the big, cannon-armed guys. Unlike the elementary-school days, nobody gets picked last for a dodgeball team, and everybody has something to offer.

"Everybody on your team can fill some role in some way. It doesn't matter if you're a star athlete who can huck the ball at 70mph or if you're someone who's had dance training and can weave around the balls. And because you're living with and interacting with [the people] you're playing with on a day-to-day basis, it creates a bond."

Richard Sampson, the LDL's officiating administrator, agrees. With Listerites eating, sleeping, and being quarantined together, Dodgeball acts as extra intra-floor mortar. It's particularly helpful in the early, gelid months, when the 40-some new students are trying to find some common ground with the people surrounding them.

"I think it's the glue, at least in the beginning. [Dodgeball's] kind of the ice breaker," he says. "You have your little things, but once you start playing on a team, there's that kinship that develops that helps build a floor up together. You don't even have to be the best. Last year, I was on the third-worst team in the league, and we still got together, got drunk, and played dodgeball; whereas, this year, I'm on one of the top ten teams, and we still get drunk and go play dodgeball."



That's not to say that player-to-player issues don't pop up every once in a while—after all, pitting one tightly knit group against another in a sporting competition is bound to spark a few rivalries. Greg Courtice, a dodgeball liason for his floor, notes that although teams usually keep the competition friendly, the occasional disputes creep up off of the court—mostly from behind a keyboard.

"There's been a fair bit of stuff going down on the website; there's a forum where you can post your thoughts on whatever, and there's been a few cases [of disputes], especially with the all-star week: there's a lot of controversy over who got picked and who didn't get picked. People like the anonymity of the forums and will trash talk people."

Though they can't control the anonymous comments of the Internet, the LDL Executive tries its best to keep feuds off of the court by settling disputed themselves. As officiating administator, Sampson's duties include choosing, training, and maintaining the game's head referees, who oversee each game with the help of eight additional rule-enforcers: eight extra referees, half plucked from each team scheduled to take the court after the game-in-contest finishes.

"If [a floor] doesn't send refs, we dock them two players per [unsent] for their game," he explains. "Also, if the head refs feel that if [a floor] may as well have not sent refs at all, they can dock them that way."

Sampson also has to maintain the equipment, a job that seems simple enough considering the minimal amounts of gear necessary to play-people, dodgeballs, and the occasional net for a game of Doctor are about it. But apparently the tools of the game weaken to the point of replacement regularly.



"The nets get a lot of wear and tear. The dodgeballs do too—we replace the dodgeballs once a week. Even though they have the lifetime warranty on them, we've pretty much thrown that out the window," Sampson notes. "If you have people throwing a dodgeball at 70mph against a wall for 16 hours a week, it kinda shows the wear and tear on the ball."

That speed might sound exaggerated, but it's radar-gun proven: in the LDL's recent skills competition, a few hurled balls were clocked at speeds exceeding the big seven-zero. That much strength, channeled through a soft, foamy ball covered in a thin skin, can lead to some strange injuries—ones afflicting the throwers, not their shots' intended recipients. After all, only so much energy can transfer from arm to a very light ball, and the remaining force has to go somewhere.

"We get spiral fractures in the upper-arm; that's a big one," Sampson says. "Other than that, there's tennis elbows, pulled muscles, shoulders getting thrown out."

"We had a girl, it was like her first drill in the first game of dodgeball," Ford chimes in. "She'd played softball or something, but the ball was just so light that [she] underestimated [her energy and] she completely fractured her arm."

Even with legal fallout from an injury safely signed away with a waiver, running a league of this size isn't a cheap venture: jerseys need to be bought en masse, and dodgeballs need be replaced again and again—yet the bulk of the LDL budget is made up of a piddly player fee collected at the start of the year. Though the possibility of sponsorship lingers in the background—rumour had it that Molson Canadian was looking to sponsor the LDL a few years ago—it's something that Ford sees as unnecessary for a recreational student league.

"I remember last year as a liason, we had a vote of whether we would be doing any sponsorship deals, and I know this year as an Exec, we talked about it. One of the reasons that we don't want it is because [dodgeball] is a student thing, and it's this unique sport that we don't want to dilute."

And maybe keeping the dodgeball league as simple as the game itself is the way it should be, especially if it means "everything to everyone" in Lister. Though the floors are all rivals on the court, dodgeball's a unifying force for all four towers, as Sampson explains.

"I think it's cool [that] where Lister has to be represented, and everyone needs to be seen as visibly [united], they go and they put on their dodgeball jerseys."

THE HOW-TO:

For the uninitiated/non-Listerites, the LDL doesn't play the game like Vince Vaughn did in* Dodgeball. *Wipe from your mind the tiny teams, rubber balls, and Ben Stiller's feathered hair: this is how Lister plays the game.

Each round of dodgeball is played out in a best-of-five format, with each team picking two of the four games, and the LDL exec predetermining a "Game of the Week" that must be played. Teams can include an entire floor, but the maximum amount of players allowed to play each game is 18: eleven of one gender, seven of the other.

When the ref starts the game, teams charge the line and grab however many balls they can—including the ball of shame, a skinless, foamy puff that even the most herculean men can't lob far, and which turns you into the laughingstock of both sides when you're hit with it. All balls must touch the back wall before being thrown. A ten-minute time-limit is enforced for each game.

THE TERMINOLOGY:

***Ball control:** To prevent balls from rolling back to the rival team's side.*

***Cross-court shots:** Lobs from the other side of the court that unaware victims didn't see coming.*

***Off the wall:** Balls remain active until they hit the ground; if a ball bounces off the back wall and clips a leg, it counts as a hit.*



"Everybody on your team can fill some role in some way. It doesn't matter if you're a star athlete who can huck the ball at 70mph or if you're someone who's had dance training and can weave around the balls. And because you're living with and interacting with [the people] you're playing with on a day-to-day basis, it creates a bond."

CHRIS FORD

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Up the Yangtze

Opens 21 March
Directed by Yung Chang
Starring Jerry Bo Yu Chen and Campbell Ping He
Garneau Theatre

Up the Yangtze is a Chinese documentary centered on the Three Gorges Dam, the concrete monstrosity currently serving as the world's largest producer of hydroelectric energy and a reminder of the Chinese government's proud commitment to ongoing ecological degradation. Rather than dealing with the environmental impact of the project, director Yung Chang focuses on the human aspect of the story, with tales of farmers forced from their land due to flooding of the river valley and Chinese labourers working on luxury boat tours for the benefit of Western tourists.

ESO free performance

Featuring the ESO Trumpet Section
Thursday, 27 March at noon
Enmax Hall, Winspear Center

Those too cheap to shelf out the usual 50-odd dollars for a trip to the symphony are in for a lunch-time treat: the Winspear is hosting an open door, general admission concert, previewing music from their upcoming April and May performance material.

The group will be led, as usual, by firebrand conductor Bill Eddins through 50 minutes of dulcet tones and powerful melodies. Eddins has made a name for himself as an unconventional and exuberant director, has put out a solo piano CD, and regularly puts out a podcast dedicated to the history of classical music.

The free concert—did I mention it's free?—will feature ESO trumpeters Alvin Lowrey, Bill Dimmer, and Russell Whitehead, with a possible appearance from the cheery spectre of the dearly missed Harriet Winspear herself.



Easter Egg Hunt

Throughout the basement and closets of Aunt Dolores' bungalow
Sunday, 23 March at 6am, if you're eager

After nearly two months living a chocolate-free existence since Valentine's Day, the wholesome goodness of creamy, coloured Lilliputians and mini-eggs comes home to the city when the citizens of Edmonton do their yearly Easter Egg hunt through their Aunt Delores' spacious bungalow. Somewhere between the stagnant aroma and peeling yellow wallpaper, those tiny chocolate surprises are waiting consumption, and it's your task to discover them before they get kicked under the fridge then and found months later as part of a dust bunny.

Don't forget to check under the couch cushions, under your pillow, and behind the VCR, making sure to elbow your cousin in the eye—or give him/her a playful nudge down the stairs just as they're about to steal your latest find. With any luck, you'll be able to build up a decent reserve of candy, as the occurrence of official chocolate holidays in the summer is pretty much nonexistent.

JONN KMECH & SEAN STEELS
Double your A&E trouble

The industrious Mr Workman

Though he's just put out an album, Hawksley Workman still has a wealth of material waiting for release

musicpreview

Hawksley Workman

With Guests
Monday, 24 March at 8pm
Winspear Centre

PAUL BLINOV
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Fans of Hawksley Workman can probably be found basking in the soft sounds present on his latest release, *Between the Beautifuls*, but if the quirky Canadian songwriter had his way, the time between his new disc and 2006's *Treeful of Starling* would've been filled in with an extra record or three. He's written far more albums than have reached store shelves, which is a shame, because he's more than willing to release them all.

"I was feeling insane, sitting around, waiting for a record to come out," he explains. "The record business just moves so slowly, I felt like having this stuff sitting around was making me feel crazy. I'd go out on a tour, and I'd gather up these records that were being made and put them on CDs, because when they sit around in my house, I go kind of crazy wanting them to leave. I just want them to be somebody else's possession; I don't want to own them anymore."

Compared to how fast Workman writes music—*Between the Beautifuls* marks his sixth album in the past nine years—the music industry's process of releasing his tunes seems more akin to trudging through a knee-high bog of maple syrup. That sticky-slow pace frustrated Workman to the point of finding label-free ways of emptying his home of any unreleased material: bringing homemade copies of them along on tour and putting them up on the Internet.

Besides *the Beautifuls*, a non-commercially released batch of Workman records has surfaced over the past few years: *Before We Were Security Guards*, written and recorded before his first official release; *My Little Toothless Beauties*, which was rejected by Workman's label; and *Puppy: A Boy's Truly Rough*, an album that Workman calls "an experiment [to see] what it was I really wanted to do."

> **"I don't like releasing one record every two years. It's a poor representation of who I am. I don't like the idea that a journalist is going to review ten songs that have come out over 24 months. It doesn't represent me."**
>
> **HAWKSLEY WORKMAN**
> SINGER/SONGWRITER

And most recently, there's *Los Manlicious*. Recorded before his past two commercial albums and slyly alluded to with *Between the Beautiful*'s last track, it's a Workman album that *will* see an official release—in Europe.

As of now, there are no official plans to put it out Canada, a strange move considering that this is Hawksley's home turf. But he's as puzzled as the next person as to his label's decision.

"I wish there were [release plans]; it's a great record—it's very rock & roll," Workman offers, while questioning the mystery of a record label's decisions. "It's hard to tell anymore what is right and what is wrong in this business. There's lots of decisions made: some leave you feeling exalted, and some leave you scratching your head."

It's not that the music industry's been especially hurtful to Workman: he's enjoyed backing from globe-spanning Universal Music since his early days, and the music he has released has created critical acclaim in both Canada and Europe. But for Workman, there's just too many steps between him recording new music and those songs reaching fans; by the time an album finally gets an official release, he's already in a different musical headspace.

"I think it goes a long way to making better music if stuff isn't sitting around stagnating," he says. "I don't like releasing one record every two years. It's a poor representation of who I am. I don't like the idea that a journalist is going to review ten songs that have come out over 24 months. It doesn't represent me; I recorded *Between the Beautifuls* almost eight months ago, and I feel like a different person now than who I was then."

For Workman, albums are snapshots of a time, a place, and a specific moment of musical inspiration. That his label refuses to keep up with his frequent musings is unfortunate, because keeping Workman's prolific spurts of songwriting off of shelves means that by the time they do (if ever) reach fans, the moment that inspired them is only a memory.

"I don't labour over [albums], and I don't think too hard about them, and I don't spend years leading up to it," he says. "*Between the Beautifuls* was made in about 20 days in May of 2007. It really was a moment; it was a blink. That blink came and went, and that was the record that came out of it. I'm really grateful when I'm in the middle of a blink and I'm recording a record; it's wonderful, because I can capture everything I'm doing like a photograph. And that's really what *Between the Beautifuls* is: a photograph of a moment, as all of my records are."



Collett foregoes band, shaving

The former Broken Social Scene collaborator—now five albums into a solo career—is enjoying the success that's grown since his shoestring days with BSS

musicpreview

Jason Collett
With Peter Elkas
Tuesday, 25 March at 8pm
Starlite Room

CHARLIE CRITTENDEN
Arts & Entertainment Writer



"I've always been enamored with the tradition of songwriting, whether it's Bob Dylan or Bob Marley," Jason Collett explains, and this mentality is clearly on display with his new album *Here's to Being Here*, which draws on those influences of storytelling and individuality, if not reggae beats as well.

You might know him from Canada's indie supergroup Broken Social Scene. But for all the attention that the collective has gathered, Collett, like other branch-out members such as Feist and Amy Millan, is tasting solo success. Of course, this isn't his first outing away from that band.

"Like so many other people in that band, we've had solo careers beforehand, and it's just natural to do it afterwards. The advantage of it is that the band kicked the door open for us all, worldwide," he says.

Touring all over the US and Canada for his new album, it would seem that plenty of doors are opening up for Collett—enough to stop him thinking of himself as "indie." But Collett just takes the loss of his under-the-radar status with a laugh.

"Man, I got a family to support," he chuckles. "I've been doing this for a long time on a shoestring, and in the last four years, I've been really privileged to make a living."

Prior to becoming a full-time musician, he was a carpenter who played on the side, so his pragmatic attitude upon success makes sense. But make no mistake: Collett's driven by the passion, as well as the practicality, of playing music.

"My solo thing is my priority. It's the thing I gotta do, and I really do love it."

He loves stories too, and tells some good ones. One of his songs, "Charlyn, Angel of Kensington," recaps the tale of a Toronto social worker. This woman was "fondly dubbed the Angel of Kensington" by the area's inhabitants after she helped save the district from being bulldozed in the '60s.

Having lived in Kensington himself for a decade, Collett was all too happy to retell the tale.

"This neighborhood is the mosaic that Canada has always purported itself to be," he explains. "When I discovered the story of this woman that single-handedly organized the neighborhood to stop it from being bulldozed by the city, [it was] a great story to be told."

Collett reaches into these small stories of Canada and draws a traditional album from the tales—markedly different from Broken Social Scene's progressive work. In taking it slow and being true to the roots of rock, Collett rejects the simplicity of pop choruses as much as he rejects regular shaving habits: on the cover of his album he has the most magnificent stubble, which, paired with a lumberjack shirt, identifies him as a quintessential Canadian—but in other pictures, he's slick and smooth. It takes a certain masculine mindset to actually care about this, but being on the hairy side myself, it naturally came up.

"I'm a lazy shaver. That's all there is to it," he shrugs. It's that nonchalant mentality that lets him tap into "a tradition of songwriting and rock & roll." But of course, like any generalization, that's partially untrue.

"You can't sum up anything in a sentence," he says. "That's the problem with sound bites."

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MIKE KENDRICK
Design & Production Editor

Check the source code, change the page style, and comb for hidden files. This may sound like the troubleshooting checklist of an early webmaster, but it's actually just a sample of the many puzzle-solving techniques in the browser-based mystery *Not Pron*.

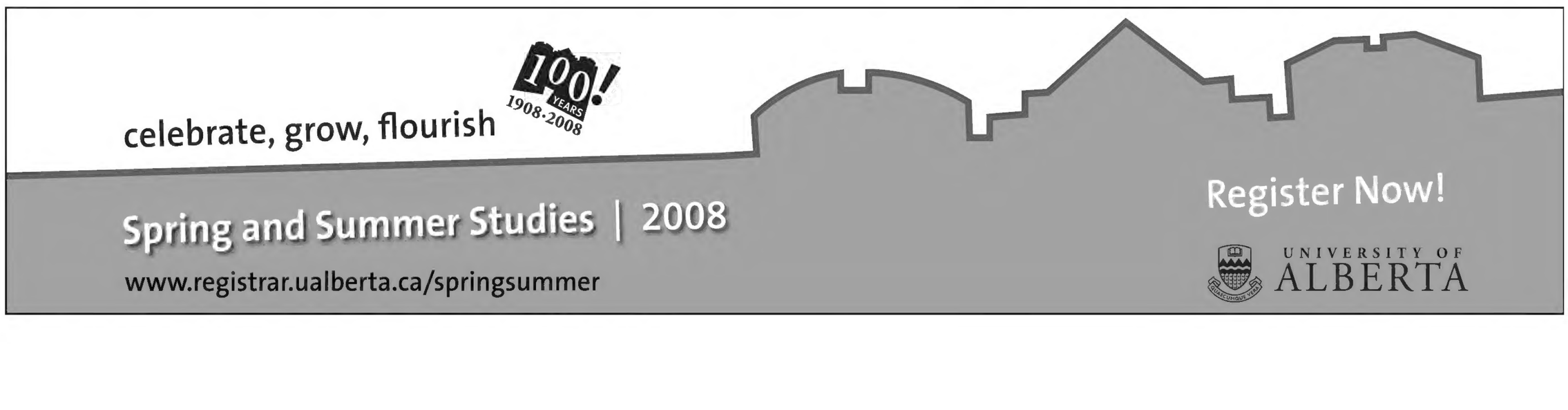
Not Pron has been online since 2005, but since then, only 161 people have managed to solve the entire game. Composed of 81 screens that offer little more than a seemingly random photo on a simple page, to solve the game's riddles, you first need to forget the rules of conventional gaming. Hints can and will be found anywhere—including the HTML coded into the site and the EXIF camera data embedded in the pictures themselves. While it's not quite an alternate reality game, it shares many characteristics with the genre, including the necessity to gather information on other sites that are in some way related to *Not Pron*.

At times, the puzzles may seem frustrating, but there's never an answer that's any further away than a Google search combined with some clever lateral thinking. After getting a feel for the first few puzzles' style of logic, you're certain to get hooked. Just don't get too deep if you've got an important exam coming up, because before you know it, it'll be 4am, and you'll be stuck agonizing over the simple solution to puzzle 47.









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Doomsday pushes right B-movie buttons

Neil Marshall's ridiculous post-apocalyptic cheese-fest is perfectly over the top

filmreview

Doomsday
Now Playing
Written and Directed by Neil Marshall
Starring Rhona Mitra, Craig Conway, and Malcom MacDowell

RAMIN OSTAD
Arts & Entertainment Staff

If any part of the world is ever over taken by a zombie infestation, viral outbreak, or some other event that can cause a post-apocalyptic scenario to occur, I hope it ends up being Glasgow, Scotland.

This is the premise for *Doomsday*, the latest piece of B-movie perfection written and directed by Neil Marshall (of *The Descent* fame.) A terrible plague called the "Reaper Virus"—because apparently Marshall never saw *Blade II*—infects northern Great Britain, and so Hadrian's Wall gets extended around the entire Northern Coast. 30 years later, the virus infects London, and the government dispatches an elite team of heavily armed specialists, led by the lethally efficient Eden Sinclair (Rhona Mitra), to seek out a cure in the forgotten land of quarantined Scotland, where satellites have picked up images of survivors.

What follows that bland, clichéd, raped and bludgeoned horse of a premise is a series of over-the-top sequences that would be written off as laughable were it not for Marshall's extreme knack for showmanship. Inside this decimated Scotland there are two factions: a gang of punk-rock cannibals led by a maniacal psycho named Sol (Craig Conway), and group of medieval villagers who live in a castle, ride horses, and wear knightly armour. Their leader is Kane, played by the brilliant Malcolm MacDowell, who tricks his people into believing that nothing exists outside of Hadrian's Wall anymore.

What follows that bland, clichéd, raped and bludgeoned horse of a premise is a series of over-the-top sequences that would be written off as laughable were it not for Marshall's extreme knack for showmanship.

As I said, what really makes these two otherwise ridiculous-sounding elements so enjoyable is their presentation. Sol entertains his group of *Escape from New York* wannabes by bombastically presenting them with their next feast while the Fine Young Cannibals and Siouxsie and the Banshees play on the speakers and a group of greasy fat guys do the can-can on stage alongside anarchist strippers.

On the other side, Sinclair is put in a gladiatorial pit and forced to battle against Kane's best executioner. No matter which faction you're watching, however, you're greeted with the kind of blood-splattering gore and violence that the word "gratuitous" doesn't even begin to describe.

To put it in perspective, in the span of three sequences, Sinclair travels from an anarchist, purple-haired dystopia to a medieval revisionist history, then segues into a car-chase sequence as her shiny Bentley is chased by vehicles last seen in *Mad Max*.

It should be noted here that there's one other major reason none of the above offended the logic-creating synapses in my brain: the fact that all of this occurs in Scotland gives you the startling impression that maybe, just maybe, things could actually turn out this ridiculous if an evil skin-bubbling virus took over Northern Great Britain. Great Britain has plenty of castles, and many of them are now museums with real armour on display. So Kane could acquire his armour and horses through legitimate happenstance. It's often said that the most important thing in real estate is location, location, location, and for *Doomsday* their location is their biggest saving grace.

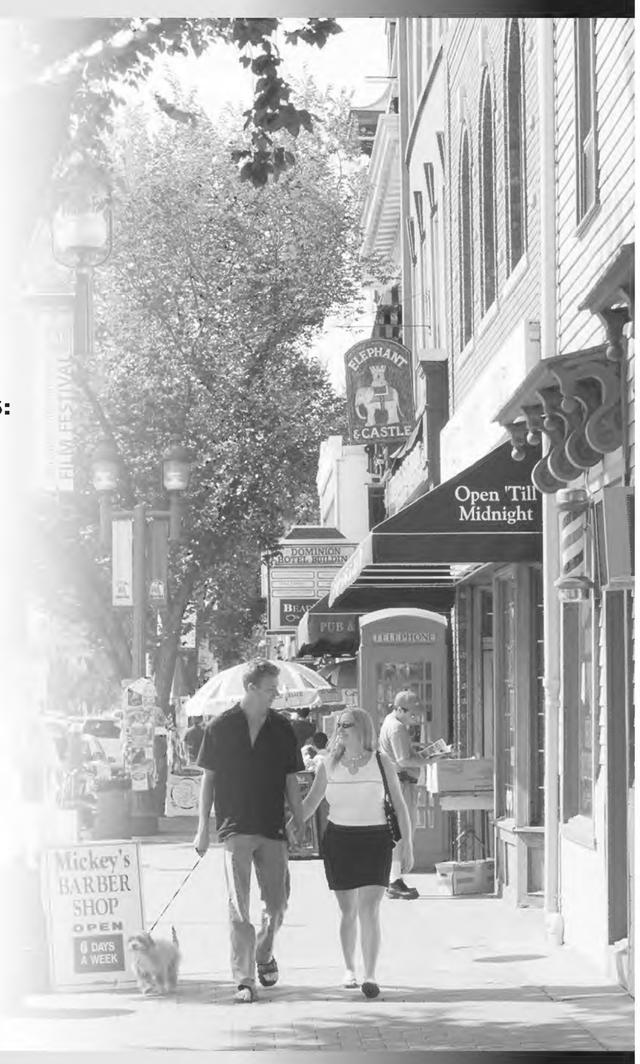
Thought it could have ended up being a terrible not-really-a-zombie flick, *Doomsday* is an extremely entertaining joy ride. It's the perfect B-movie, providing just the right mix of comedic one-liners, ridiculous characters, and unnecessary—but awesome—violence, plus a dash of quasi-logic. I really hope it becomes a cult classic.

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Sending them back to Iraq

Ryan Phillippe explores being sent back to the war in MTV Films' *Stoploss*

filmpreview

Stoploss
Opens 21 March
Directed by Kimberley Pierce
Starring Ryan Phillippe, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, and Rob Brown

JONN KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

After serving their time fighting insurgents in Iraq and surviving under the considerable stress of being in a warzone for months, many American soldiers assume they will come home to their families and some sense of normalcy will return. However, many have seen their tours extended for months past when they expected to leave, and hundreds of soldiers have been recalled to Iraq to serve additional tours, thanks to a little known snag in the Army contract known as the stop-loss policy.

"These guys make it through twice, and they can come home—they're supposed to come home. They really feel like they've cheated death," explains Ryan Phillippe, who stars in *Stoploss* as Sgt Brandon King, a soldier who returns home to Texas only to be recalled back to service in Iraq. "A lot of times, they [call your third tour] the death tour."

Considered a backdoor draft by some, stop-loss is an obligation built into the contract that recruits sign, a devastating quirk that allows the military to both prolong the length of service against the will of the soldier, or send them on another tour. While extension of tours has been a commonly used—and, according to some, abused—policy during the Iraq War, the existence of an actual contractual clause permitting the Army to necessitate tour extensions isn't as well known, even to Phillippe, a self-proclaimed "news junkie."

> **"These guys make it through twice, and they can come home—they're supposed to come home. They really feel like they've cheated death."**
>
> **RYAN PHILLIPPE**
> *STOPLOSS* ACTOR

"I knew a little bit just from watching Nightline," he notes. "I was somewhat familiar [with] what the term meant, what it forced upon someone. But it wasn't really until I started meeting soldiers and people who had been affected by the stop-loss order [that] it really came to mean something more to me. When you meet the people whose lives are put on hold or torn apart and you see what it does to their family, I think it has a much different meaning."

Phillippe, who broke out in the late '90s with such films as *I Know What You Did Last Summer* and *Cruel Intentions*, has fashioned a new direction for himself as of late in the genre of politically charged dramas, with lead roles in *Breach* and 2006's Oscar winning *Crash*. For *Stoploss*, Phillippe teamed up with Kim Pierce, director of the Academy-Award-winning drama *Boys Don't Cry*, whose personal involvement in the war led to the film's concept.

"Her brother was in the Army and signed up after 9/11. One of his best friends in his unit was a guy, Harvey, [whose] wife had given birth while he was away on his second tour. He was supposed to get out and come home and have his wife and child. They stop-lossed him, and that was sort of the inspiration."

A tragic occurrence that continues to bemoan thousands of American families, the personal impact caused by the drawn-out and wearisome war is an element occasionally lost in the cable news punditry prevalent in the US media. For Phillippe, it's this intensely individual story that motivates both his performance and the central theme of the film, not partisan agendas or anti-war sentiment.

"It's not a war movie, and it's not an anti-military movie. In fact, I think it's very pro-military, the way the guys are so bonded and the love and protection they feel toward each other. There's something a little more honest about it than it just being an agenda-pushing liberal film. You feel like you're doing something that is speaking to people that are sometimes overlooked or taken for granted."

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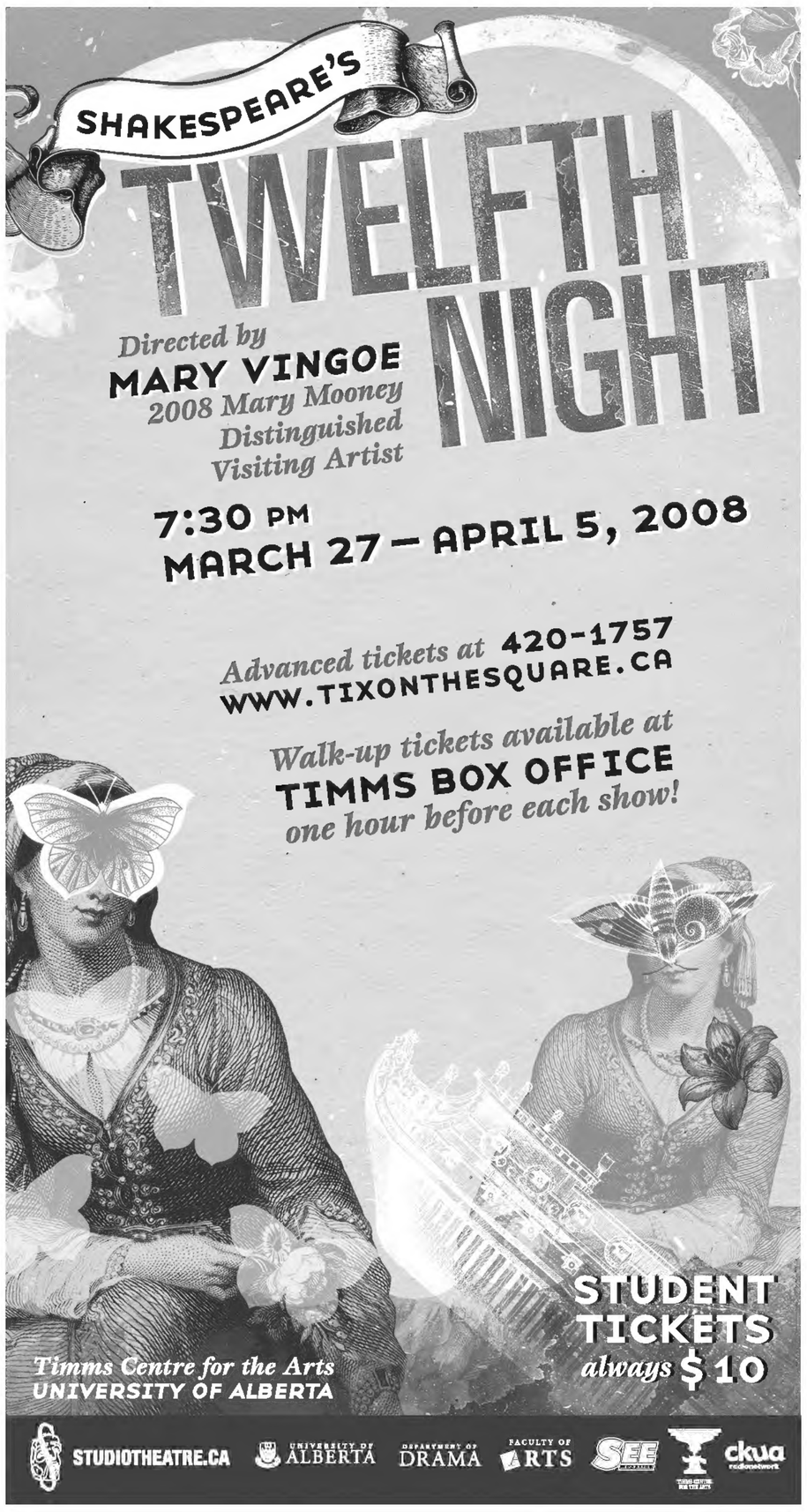
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The director and actresses of Edmonton's rendition of *The Vagina Monologues* talk box.

All hail genitalia

WRITTEN BY Kathleen Bell

"One of the perks of this show is you get to say vagina a lot in public. It's great because I think we need to say vagina, vagina, vagina more. Because people are like, 'Did she just say that? Did she actually just say vagina?'"

Yup, she did. After working six months preparing to put on *The Vagina Monologues* at the Myer Horowitz Theatre, Tracy Johnson, who balances the roles of both actor and co-organizer for this year's performance, is ready to say "vagina" and more in front of 700 people.

Far beyond general squeamishness at a simple anatomical term, misconceptions and misunderstandings regarding *The Vagina Monologues* have frustrated fans and organizers since its inception, when playwright Eve Ensler performed the show herself off-Broadway. That was over ten years ago, and Johnson, along with director Stephanie Leaf and actor and art director Jessica Veins, thinks it's time to make a few things clear: the play does not involve man-hating or man-bashing, no one gets naked, and there's certainly no giant talking vagina. And while all three are eager, if not desperate, to get people comfortable discussing "down there," there's a lot more to the show than just vaginas.

"On top of being able to talk about your body, which we never really have a chance to do, it's about difficult issues that women deal with: for instance, domestic violence, rape, sexual assault," Johnson says. "Things that are also swept under the rug that we don't talk about, but they are issues."

"From my perspective, it's about just being empowered by the fact that we are women and that we're all coming together to share in a community," Leaf adds. "I guess that's really what it's about for me: the community of women. And the community of men and women, living together and being aware of each other, aware of the problems that we face."

The play opens up that line of communication by being frank, funny and, at times, difficult. Johnson twitches with delight at the idea of presenting her first monologue, "Reclaiming Cunt," a provocative discourse on the term "cunt" in the hopes of reclaiming the word that, to most, is considered a vile insult. However, she is also acting in a second piece, "Crooked Braid,"a challenge she was slightly more tentative to take up.

"When Stephanie asked me to do 'Crooked Braid', I was really hesitant because, as someone who as never experienced domestic violence, I felt uncomfortable sharing that story if I didn't relate to it," Johnson says. "I was really afraid I wouldn't give them enough credit because I've never experienced that. But I've learned that even when you haven't experienced those things, there will have been something that you've experienced that can relate to it. And that is what empathy is all about."

It's these shared threads of understanding that bind *The Vagina Monologues* together, from actor to actor, show to show, audience to audience.

"I think, probably always, for my entire life, I will have some fear in the back of my head of being raped or being harassed sexually, sexually violated," Veins explains. "And I think I can't get rid of it, this goddamn fear, you know? Just trying to deal with it and feeling what it feels like to go through that makes you want to hug all women everywhere and say, 'It's going to be okay. We're going to make it through. You won't have to be scared of being raped one day.'"

But before empathy and understanding came rehearsals. And while these three women are all passionate about starting a conversation about the issues we tend to passively ignore or actively avoid, they're the first to acknowledge that the subjects are tricky to broach.

"The first day, I assigned them all the task of [sharing] what their vagina would wear and what their vagina would say, and I was like 'Oh, I have to do that too … awkward,' Leaf laughs.

"We didn't really know each other; we were talking about the most personal thing we could possibly fathom," Veins says. "We started the first day with 'My vagina would wear … . My vagina would say… .' And it's like, 'Oh god, you have a vagina!' "

Now, of course, there's a lot less blushing, and the cast and crew are ready to put on a show that will not only get people talking, but also will get them donating. The proceeds from the ticket stubs, as well as a silent art auction and T-shirt sales, will go to three different charities: The Prostitute Awareness and Action Foundation of Edmonton, Planned Parenthood, and V-Day—a campaign begun by Ensler to stop violence against women—the 'V' in V-day standing for Victory, Valentine, and Vagina. In addition, those attending the show should be prepared to indulge in a vulva or two, as organizers are also raising funds via vulva-shaped cookie sales. The cookies will come in milk chocolate and white chocolate.

What started as a conversation between Leaf, Johnson, and co-organizer Lisa Dockman will come to fruition on 25 March, and in the aftermath of the *Monologues*, they hope to have made an impact.

"It's about diversity," Leaf says. "Getting people to open their eyes a little bit because we all get in these little boxes, these little bubbles where we have our perceptions, and this is something that's way out there for a lot of people, including myself.

"Changing that perception and saying, it's okay to be a woman, it's okay to talk about hair and orgasms and all those things that before this experience used to make you blush madly."



Hockey Bears eastward-bound for nationals

Alberta preparing for tough crowds and tough opponents as they get ready to possibly play two New Brunswick teams in Moncton

PAUL OWEN
Managing Editor



FILE PHOTO: RYAN SHIPPELT

HE HAS FEWER LEGS IN REAL LIFE The Bears didn't make it to nationals last year; they'll try to make up for it with a win this this season in Moncton.

It's been four years since the Alberta Golden Bears were in a playoff game outside of Edmonton, but when they take on the hometown team at the CIS men's hockey national championships in Moncton tonight, they'll find themselves back on familiar ground.

Four years ago, the then top-ranked, top-seeded, and undefeated Golden Bears took on the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds in the national semifinals in front of their home crowd in Fredericton, 182km west of Moncton. Backed by a raucous crowd, the Reds stormed back from a 4–2 deficit in the third period to win in overtime, eliminating the Bears from the gold-medal hunt, handing heavily favoured U of A its first loss of the season, and sending Alberta home with the moniker "the Foldin' Bears."

But while the Bears don't have fond memories of their last championship experience in New Brunswick, the inclusion of two local teams—the defending champion Reds and host Université de Moncton Aigles Bleu—in this year's tournament has them prepared to face another onslaught from the Atlantic fans.

"The message is out and circulating that what to expect is hostile fans," Alberta assistant coach Serge Lajoie explained. "Everybody's going to be against us, and it will allow our strength—guys sticking together—to be even more important because there's only the coaches and the players that they'll be able to rely on for any positive support.

"Everything that we need is in that dressing room: the experience is there with Harlan Anderson, Ryan Stempfle, Richard Hamula, and Tim Krymusa. Guys [that] have played in a national championship in the Maritimes, they know what it's like, and they've shared it with our younger guys."

Those players who weren't around in 2004—such as third-year forward Dylan Stanley—seem to be getting that message and recognizing that the program's history tends to draw animosity from opposing fans.

"I think it's something that we've addressed as a team: that we're going into a hostile environment and the U of A usually has a bulls-eye on their jerseys just from the success they've had in the past," Stanley said.

But while the other teams and their fans may be targeting the Bears—the second seed behind the Reds and the top-seeded team from outside the province—Lajoie believes that their closeness as a team will help them overcome the harsh environment they expect to be playing in.

"It's our strength in numbers: we have four lines that can play in every situation; our strength in players having accepted the roles that they have been assigned or that they've evolved into over the course of the year, and every player is playing not only for themselves and the program, but for the guy beside them," he said. "I see a real strong close-knit group of guys, and I think that's our strength."

Though they aren't the first seed this time around, the Golden Bears still have more in common with that Alberta team from four years ago: a shot at redemption. The 2003/04 Bears were coming off a heartbreaking loss to l'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières in the gold-medal match the year before, while this year's team is trying to erase the memories of last season, which saw them twice squander third-period leads in the conference final and miss nationals for the first time in a decade.

"I get a sense the players within the dressing room want to prove it to themselves; they want to do it for themselves," Lajoie said. "Every team finds their reason to perform to the best of their ability; this team, they want to prove it to themselves that last year was unfortunate what happened, they grew from it, they've learned from it, and they want to do it for the guy sitting beside them. So they've created a strong bond, and when the puck drops, they feed off each other's energy."

"A lot of the guys in our dressing room take pride in the fact that the U of A has won the most national championships," Stanley added.

Though their accolades might not yet live up to those possessed by former Alberta squads, Stanley believes that the talent in the dressing room does.

"For our team, we just have to stay mentally focused. The skills in our dressing room are if not the best in the country, one of the top, and if we're mentally into the game and plugged in, we shouldn't face any problems, other than facing our own problems," he explained. "I think for our team from having the top goalie probably in Canada to some defencemen that anchor our team to an offence that, I think, proved in the Canada West Finals that they can score goals on anybody, we're going to rely on a full team and put 60 minutes together."

Alberta opens against Moncton tonight at 7pm ADT and, depending on the result, will face the McGill Redmen either Friday at 7pm or Saturday at 8pm. Saturday's games and Sunday's 8pm final will be available live on Rogers Sportsnet.

The defending national champions, the Varsity Reds (26-1-0-1 regular season, 4-0 playoffs) go into this championship having held the top spot on the CIS rankings all season long—fifteen consecutive weeks of play. Their lineup boasts two of the top three skaters in Canada—forward Rob Hennigar leads the league with 15 goals and 43 assists, while forward Hunter Tremblay has 14 goals and 33 assists—and Canada's top goalie. Netminder Michael Ouzas has a .924 save percentage. They beat Atlantic University Sport rivals St Thomas and Saint Mary's in the playoffs to take the conference title and qualify for nationals. UNB will play Brock in the first round.

Looking to avenge their loss to McGill in the OUA final, the Badgers (17-8-0-3 regular season, 4-3 playoffs) come into this tournament with a monkey on their back. Given their finish as OUA finalists—with playoff victories against Western Ontario and Lakehead—Brock will be playing with more determination than ever. Goaltender Matt Harpwood finished the season strong with 14 wins and a .906 save percentage in 23 games. On the offensive side, Brock's top-three scorers—Ryan Del Monte, Jonathon Labelle and JJ Martin—each of whom finished with at least thirty points, will be called upon to lead the charge. Brock's first challenge comes from top-seeded UNB in the opening match of the championships.

Coming into the championships as the OUA champions, the Redmen (18-9-0-1 regular season, 7-0 playoffs) appear poised to do some damage. Goaltender Mathieu Poitras has been playing at the top of his game, coming out of the OUA playoffs sporting seven wins and a 1.14 GAA. Left-winger Shawn Shewchuk still leads the charge for McGill; however, the team has also been receiving help of late from their secondary scorers. Sam Bloom and Benoit Arsenault—who finished with 25 and 14 points on the season respectively—lead the team with 5 goals and 3 assists each during their playoff run. The Redmen will face the winner of the first-round matchup between Alberta and Moncton in their first game.

This year's championship host, les Aigles Bleus (17-11-0-1 regular season, 2-2 playoffs) will play their first game on home ice against the U of A Golden Bears. Leading scorer Pierre-Luc Laprise—who finished the season with 17 goals and 24 assists—as well as Mathieu Bétournay and Pierre-André Bureau—both of whom finished the regular season with 34 points, but have struggled in the playoffs—will need to be firing as many pucks as they can at the Golden Bear net to keep pace against the Alberta attack. Éric LaFrance will likely start, despite splitting playing time lately with goalie Kevin Lachance. The winner of this matchup will advance to face the OUA champion McGill Redmen.

The Huskies (17-5-0-6 regular season, 2-2 playoffs) will be looking to get back on the podium this year. After placing second to the Bears at nationals in 2004/05, and third in 2005/06, they dropped to fifth last year. This season, they lost to Alberta in two games (falling 8-3 and 5-0)in the Canada West final, but it wasn't truly indicative of the play of which they're capable. With Mason Wallin up front, and Jeff Harvey in net, these fourth seeds will be out to prove it this weekend.

by Nick Frost
Future King of Sports

THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 42 ◆ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ◆ www.thegatewayonline.ca ◆ thursday, 20 march, 2008

Students take another swipe at credit card issue



MIKE OTTO

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE Protesters postered the Alumni Walk yesterday in response to the University's decision to no longer accept credit cards for tuition payments.

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

A week after the University of Alberta announced it will no longer accept credit cards as a method of payment for tuition fees, students continue to protest the decision.

In lieu of the University's move, a non-SU-affiliated student group, Dare to Deceive, has emerged, challenging the quality of consultation that takes place between the administration and students. The group plays off the name of the official document that outlines the University's vision of what it wants to achieve.

"The University does need to learn that they can't just do whatever they want without consulting us," said Andrea Michaud, one of the group's Facebook administrators.

"The U of A has that slogan 'Dare to Deliver', but they're not delivering. They're just pretending that they do."

However, U of A Vice-President (Finance & Administration) Phyllis Clark stressed that consultation had occurred. She also remained adamant that disallowing the use of credit card payments for tuition fees is still "the right thing to do for the University."

The decision to discontinue accepting credit cards as a method of tuition payment, which will be effective 1 July, 2008, will save the University $1.3 million in annual transaction fees. But despite the monetary gains, students remain dissatisfied with the impending change.

SU President Michael Janz stressed that Dare to Deceive doesn't represent the opinions of the SU Executive, but explained that student leaders have given up on fighting the decision.

PLEASE SEE **CREDIT CARDS** ◆ PAGE 4
ALSO READ **EDITORIAL** ON PAGE 7

'Tis the season to steal—Campus 5-0

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

Students spending a lot of time on campus cramming for final exams should keep more on their mind than salvaging their GPAs.

Thefts on campus are an ongoing problem, explained Stephanie Hartwig, crime prevention officer for Campus Security Services. She explained that exam periods see a spike in crime around the University.

"In 2007, theft under [$5000], there were 166 instances of it," Hartwig said. "The majority of the instances occurred in February and March, and then in October. So right when students first come to campus and start studying, and then when students are studying for exams. This year we're seeing that start to happen again. As it becomes the end of the year, thefts are picking up."

> **"The thieves that keep coming back, come back for those reasons. The pickings are always going to be good."**
>
> **STEPHANIE HARTWIG**
> CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER
> CAMPUS SECURITY SERVICES

She explained that the majority of thefts on campus are committed by individuals not affiliated with the University and are often repeat offenders who steal to make a living. Hartwig further noted that campus remains a prime target for thieves due to the high turnover of students each year.

"Every year we get a new influx of students who think it's just staff and students and their guests. So every year these students come in, they feel that sense of safety and security," she said. "The thieves that keep coming back come back for those reasons. The pickings are always going to be good."

On a recent visit to the Cameron and Rutherford libraries, Hartwig said she saw a total of 39 unattended items in the span of one hour. She explained that students must exercise caution when deciding to leave their things unattended.

PLEASE SEE **THEFTS** ◆ PAGE 4

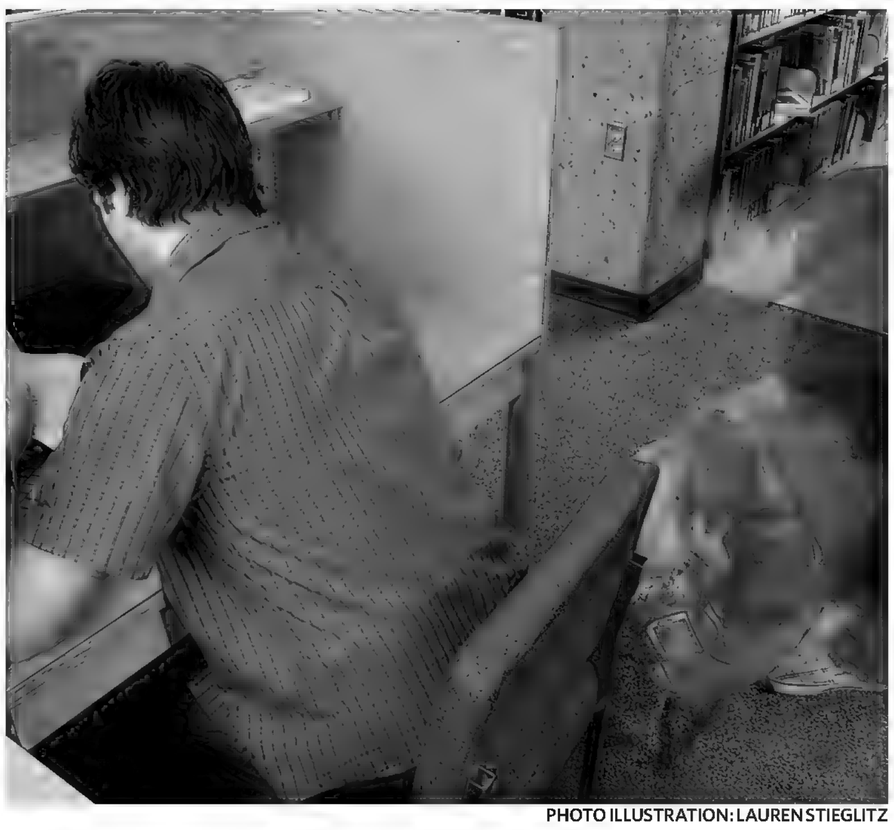


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: LAUREN STIEGLITZ

WATCH YOUR BACK ... PACK Theft of student valuables increases during March and April as students turn their attention to their assignments and finals.

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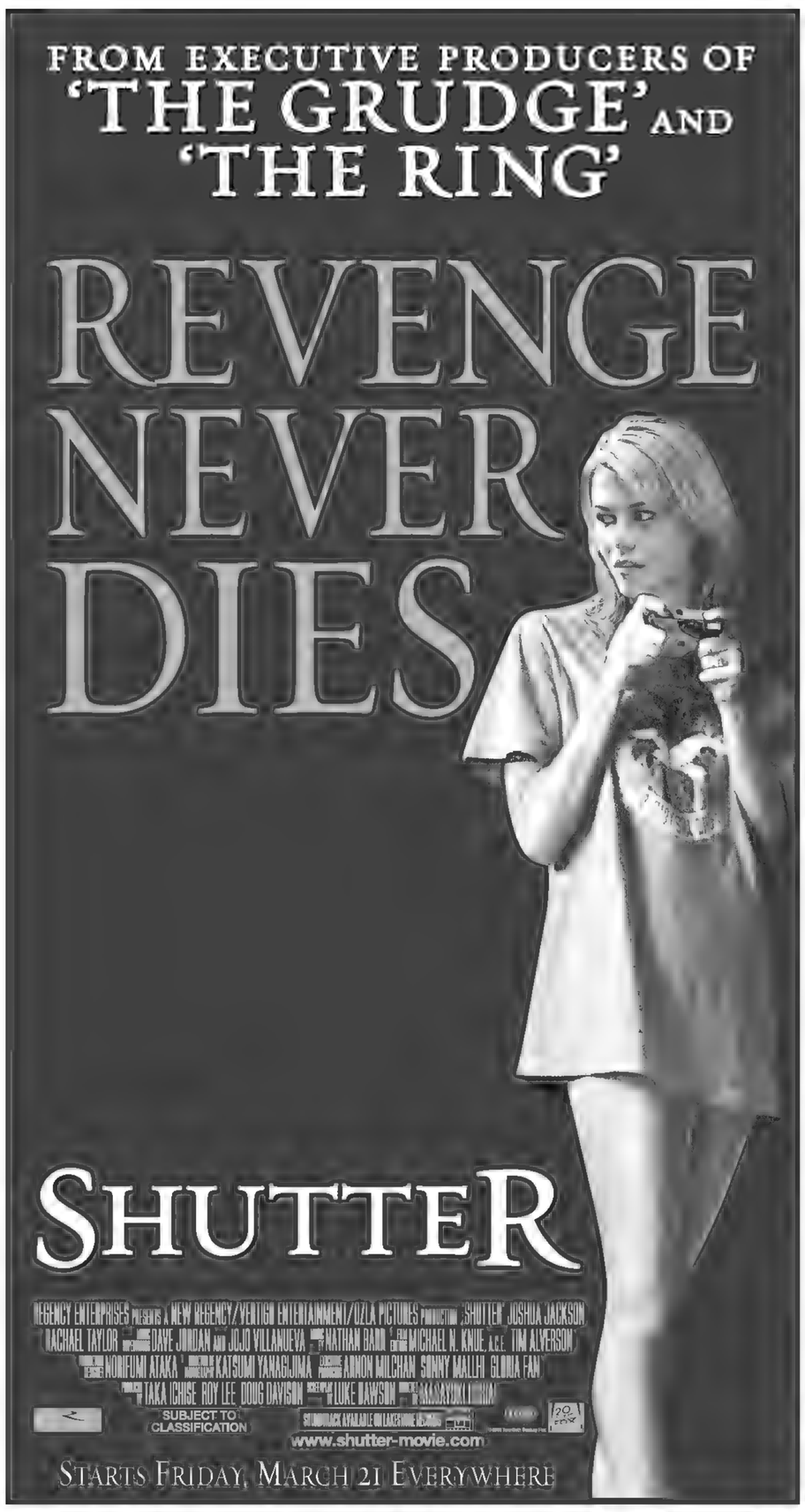


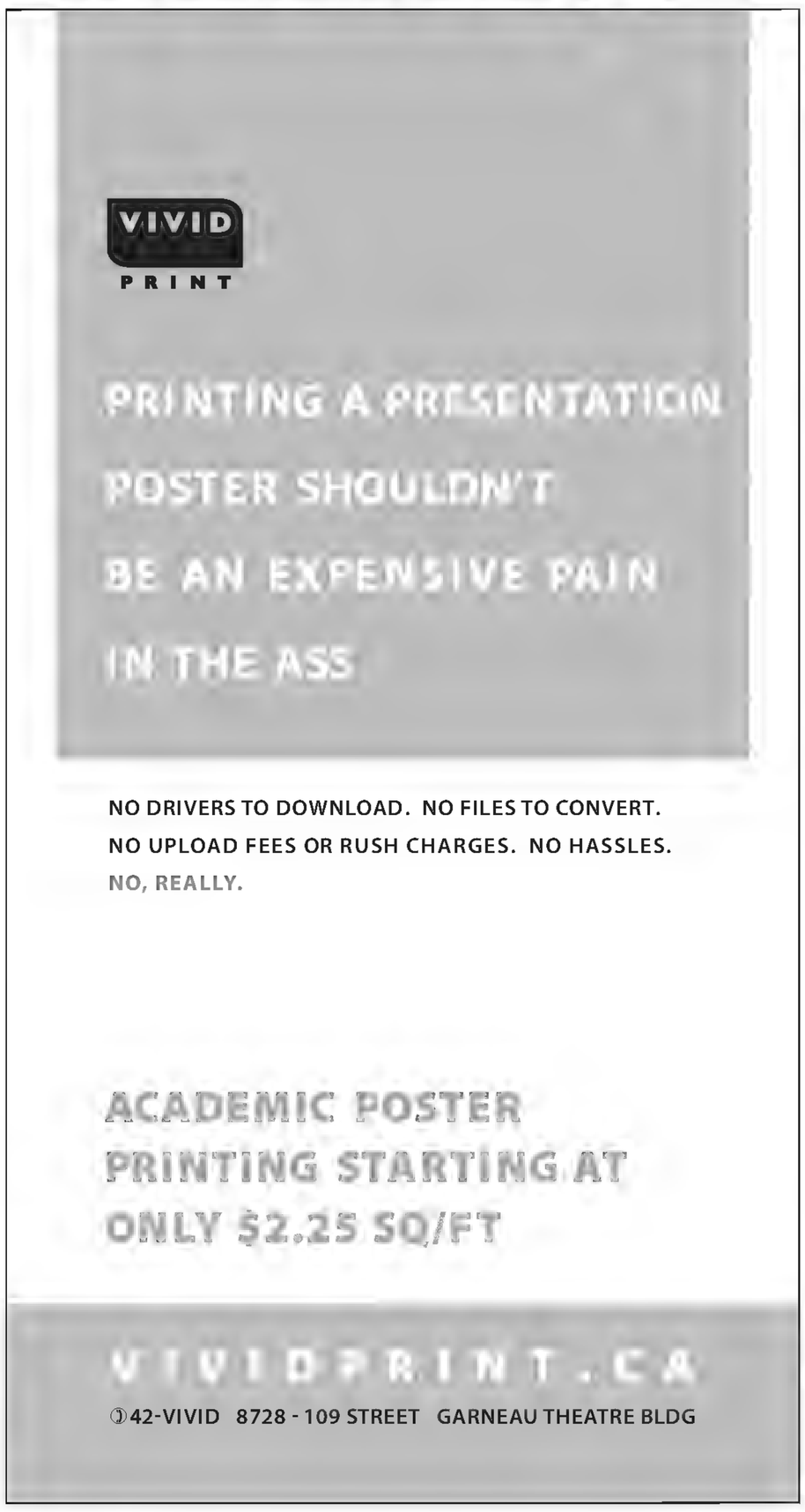
Dodge balls, basketballs, no balls

Paul Blinov takes a look at Lister dodgeball (12–13), the women of *The Vagina Monologues* show you don't need a pair to push the limits of performance art (18), and we prognosticate on March Madness (21). This *Gateway* has balls.

Hoppity holiday

The *Gateway* won't be around on Tuesday, as we'll be celebrating Easter in our own non-denominational way. Like eating chocolate, making *pysanky*, and falling asleep in church. Be back 27 March.





Curlers hurry hard at nationals

Young Alberta rinks play well but don't advance past quarter-final competition

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

The University of Alberta curling teams finished off their first-ever varsity season last weekend at the University of Waterloo, but neither team were able to advance even to the semifinals.

The Pandas—who finished second in their round-robin pool with wins against Trent, Laurier, Memorial University, and Western, and losses to Brock, and Guelph—advanced easily to the quarterfinals, where they met the Laurentian Lady Vees.

That game, on Saturday, was a close back-and-forth affair. The two teams went into the final end tied 4–4, and Alberta, with the hammer, had a chance to steal but missed. Laurentian won 5–4.

"Our teams actually played very well. It was a very high-quality field, there really was a lot of parity among the upper-end teams," Alberta head coach Rob Krepps said. "I honestly feel, for example, that if our Pandas team had gotten through the quarter-final game, that they would have had as good a chance to win the event as any other team there."

The Bears weren't quite as successful as their female counterparts, finishing with three wins—against Manitoba, Saint Mary's, and St Francis Xavier—and three losses—to Brock, Western, and Queen's—in their pool. They played Western in a tie-breaker on Saturday to determine who would continue on to the quarterfinals, but lost that game 9–4.

"I wasn't disappointed by the way our men's team played," Krepps said. "We lost the tiebreaker to another very good team, Western Ontario, and given where we sort of sat within that field, I was really proud of how the guys played. We probably got what we deserved for our level of play throughout the week on the men's side.

"The men's side was maybe a little bit more top-heavy in some ways: there were a couple of teams that were probably clearly better than the rest, and they were the teams that ended up being in the final—Wilfrid Laurier and Calgary."

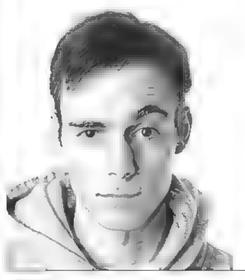
Laurier ended up sweeping the tournament, with both their men's and women's teams earning gold medals.

Krepps was happy with his teams for just getting as far as they did, considering this is Alberta's first season in varsity competition; many of the eastern teams, like Laurier, have had varsity curling for years.

"I guess you're never totally satisfied unless you've got two teams standing on the podium when the competition is over, but that said I was really pleased with the effort that all of our players showed, and with the fact that all of them improved their games quite substantially through the year," he said. "I think it sets us up with a bright future with our curling program here at the U of A."

Edmonton Rush set All-Star bar high

By putting an important game, the All-Star event, and competitions together into one weekend, the Rush has raised the standard for future lacrosse events



MATT PRETTY
Sports Commentary



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

SO MUCH PADDING The East won the NLL All-Star game on the weekend.

During their short three-year history, the Edmonton Rush have been known for innovative marketing. So when it was revealed in March of 2007 that Edmonton would host the 2008 National Lacrosse League All-Star Game, one would expect a few precedents to be set. This past weekend didn't disappoint, and by combining the All-Star game, regular-season play, and associated events, they set a new standard for other teams in the small but increasingly popular sport.

Though the new format didn't quite meet the attendance goals of the organizing committee, it made for a fun-filled weekend for those fans that did come out. It also set an example for future all-star hosts to consider, as it expanded the all-star experience from one afternoon to multiple days of action.

On Saturday afternoon, the weekend kicked into high gear with a pair of firsts. The Rush incorporated a regular season game into All-Star Weekend for the first time, welcoming to Edmonton for the first time the defending NLL champion Rochester Knighthawks. Many Rush fans were looking forward to this game—pitting John Grant Jr and his veteran-laden powerhouse Knighthawks squad against the recently-overhauled underdog Rush—more than any other home date on the schedule, and the scheduling of the all-star skills competition right after the regular season match-up raised the profile of both events.

With Rochester leading after two quarters, another first followed during the halftime show. The finals of the first 'Play with the Stars' youth skills competition were held, and the youth winners would go on to compete with the NLL all-stars in the real skills competition. The highlight of the halftime was the youth trick-shot winner pulling off a backwards-over-the-head-through-the-legs goal that even the pros couldn't duplicate—though many of them tried. The shot no doubt caught the attention of more than a few coaches and general managers, and it could very well jump-start a future NLL career—once he's legally old enough to sign a contract, that is.

The Rush ended up winning the regular-season game 10–9 on Saturday in the second minute of overtime—Edmonton's first home victory of the season.

The joyful atmosphere from the win carried over to the skills competition, which took place immediately after that game. Rochester didn't leave the night completely empty-handed, as Grant pulled off a double skills title—he took the hardest shot contest with a 104-mile-per-hour laser and also won the trick shot competition. His best trick shot wasn't even from the field; he ran off the floor, and then, with everyone—including the goaltender—searching around to see where he was, reappeared in the lower bowl seats and hit the empty net from a near-impossible angle, ten rows up in section 122.

The all-star game itself went down Sunday afternoon. Despite the pre-game hype, the atmosphere at Rexall Place was slightly underwhelming, probably due to the Rush win the night before. Though the West got off to a strong start, the East eventually won it all in overtime.

Overall, it was quite an entertaining all-star game—there was lots of end-to-end action, countless oh-no-he-didn't offensive moves, and a little bit of great defence as well (seriously!). The sacrificial lambs—er, goaltenders—didn't have a prayer against the offensive talent they were facing, but the score could've been doubled had they not played as well as they did. Compared to other all-star games where effort sometimes takes a backseat to showing off, the athletes played as a team, and there was no lack of effort on either side. This was especially impressive considering that many of the players had already played a regular season game earlier that weekend, and all of them work regular day jobs in addition to their roles on the team.

With two successful games, the skills competition, and the associated events, the Rush organization set the bar high. Future host cities, especially in lacrosse hotbeds such as Rochester and Philadelphia, should follow the format the Rush established—a regular season game and other ancillary events incorporated into the weekend, along with the skills competition and all-star game—instead of just holding the skills competition and all-star game all in one day, or in one night and the following afternoon. And if other cities don't follow the format, I hope to see the NLL all-star game back in Edmonton instead.

BRACKET RACKET

PAUL OWEN and company take apart this year's NCAA Men's Basketball tournament

FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, I'VE SAT down with some combination of colleagues, agonized over season stats and Rating Percentage Indices (RPIs), and attempted to predict what would happen in the NCAA Tournament. The results have been less than encouraging: ranging from "only sorta horrible" to "man, I can't believe you got everything wrong," there's two years of evidence to suggest that I'm not the man to do such things.

But I've never been one to listen to things like "reason" or "logic" or "the outrage of the dozens who actually thought I knew what I was talking about," so I'm back for a third year to give it one more go. Of course, knowing I'd probably get it wrong, I asked a few others to join me in making their picks and trying to take the madness out of this March.

There are still a couple things to keep in mind when picking an NCAA winner:

Competition

Similar to how a team finishes, it's also important to look at the kind of competition a team faces. RPI is a computer-generated stat that accounts for a team's winning percentage, its opponents' winning percentage, and its opponents' opponents' winning percentage. The NCAA champion is almost always in the top ten in RPI. So, when making a pick, look for teams that both played solid non-conference teams and were successful in tough conferences—this year, those would be the ACC, the Pac-10, the Big East, and maybe the Big 12. Similarly, if you're looking for a mid-major to pick for a long run, take one from a tough conference or one who was able to beat some tough competition outside of their conference. A fitting team here is Xavier, who won the A-10 (the seventh ranked conference in the country and top mid-major) and played eight non-conference opponents in the top 100 in RPI.

Upperclassmen

Excepting Florida's fantastic sophomore class in 2006 and Syracuse's freshmen in 2003, the winning teams in the past decade have all been loaded with NBA-calibre players who passed over the call to go pro to stay at their school. 2007 saw Florida's same class win their second straight title before three of them went in the first nine picks of the NBA draft (two more went in the second round). In 2005, North Carolina had four players from their championship team taken in the first 14 picks, three of whom were upperclassmen. UConn had Ben Gordon and Emeka Okafor in 2004; Maryland had Lonny Baxter, Juan Dixon, and Steve Blake in '02; Duke had Shane Battier in '01 (and four other future NBA picks who returned to school the following year). This year's team that fits the bill is UNC once again, as Player of the Year Tyler Hansbrough ignored the lure of being a lottery pick and making millions to stay in school.

Of course, some of these will continue to hold true, while, given my track record, most of them will likely fall apart at some point during the opening weekend. Luckily, you don't have to take my word for it, as some people who "know basketball" agreed to chip in.

Scott Edwards

Scott has been the head coach of the Pandas basketball team for the past two seasons, and has probably forgotten more about basketball than I could ever hope to know. Ever one to make bold predictions, Scott took three number-one seeds to make the Final Four. I'm also surprised to learn he's a Duke fan—I thought he had more integrity than that.

If I was picking with my heart, I'd go with Duke. I usually fill out my bracket with Duke winning and figure the rest out after. Unfortunately, it breaks my heart to say this, but North Carolina should win this tournament. The tournament selection committee did them no favours putting Tennessee in the same region—many people believed they were good enough to earn a #1 seed in this tournament. However, other than UT, I don't see any team in that region good enough to beat the Tar Heels. They just have too much experience and depth; they have great backcourt play and a fantastic coach; they start with a lightning-quick point guard in Ty Lawson and have quality shooters on the perimeter and depth in the post. Carolina also boasts the NCAA Player of the Year in Tyler Hansbrough, a "tough" player who gets to the foul line and is just a one-man wrecking crew on the glass. Look for the officials to protect "Psycho T" all the way to coach Roy Williams' second National Championship.

My final four picks this year: North Carolina out of the East; Wisconsin out of the Midwest; Memphis out of the South; UCLA out of the West (in a close one over my Dukies).

For the final, I'm predicting UNC over UCLA in a close game.

Tyson Jones

Tyson is a former guard for the Golden Bears basketball team who graduated last season. Hailing from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Tyson is probably the greatest trash-talker I've ever met, which is why I won't make fun of his picks or allegiances.

Your 2007/ 2008 NCAA Division I champions: the Bruins of UCLA. The Pac-10 tournament and regular season champions are my favourite to win the Madness this year. The team has been to the Final Four the previous two years. They boast the Pac-10 Freshman and Player of the Year, Kevin Love (17.1ppg and 10.6rpg). As well, they are anchored by one of the best point guards in the country in Darren Collison (15.2ppg and 3.9apg).

Other players who will play a key factor in UCLA's success are Luc Richard Mbah a Moute, Josh Shipp, and potential lottery pick Russell Westbrook. In order to go far into the tournament and win, a team must possess tough team defense, a balanced offensive attack, and a deep bench—UCLA has all these tools and more. The high seeds in UCLA's bracket are Duke, Xavier, and Connecticut, who are more than beatable and vulnerable to upsets. This is the weakest bracket in the tournament with the exception of UCLA, who are deservedly the number-one seed in the West region. Last time UCLA was a number-one seed was 1995, which is the last time UCLA won the NCAA championship. Fate will repeat itself again in 2008. If you're involved in any bracket contests, take it from me: pick UCLA for the easy money.

Vincent Reynolds

Vince is a fourth-year Phys Ed student and a coach with the junior boys basketball team at Bev Facey High in Sherwood Park. He's a fan of the Arizona Wildcats, watching the first round during a school day on someone else's TV because his parents have peasant-vision, and my mom's chocolate chip cookies (seriously, I've seen the guy eat eight in one day).

This year's national champion will be the Georgetown Hoyas because they're one of the best defensive teams, they spread the scoring around, and they have tons of experience. Georgetown somehow always finds ways to win games. This year they are 6–0 in games decided by three points or less, not to mention Georgetown's senior class currently has a 19–4 record in one-possession games. Georgetown is used to playing against high-caliber competition; after all, seven other teams from the Big East made this year's tournament. Georgetown is also an efficient team—they're ranked eleventh in the nation in offensive field goal percentage. They are also a defensive force due to their size and athleticism, and great perimeter defenders. And they're also the top-ranked team in the NCAA in terms of defensive field goal percentage: they limited their opponents to 36.7 per cent shooting from the floor.

Chris O'Leary

Former Gateway *Sports Editor and current freelancer for the* Edmonton Journal *and* Slam *magazine, Chris is responsible for the Gateway's first venture into March Madness two year ago, which might be the most horrifically bad set of rules and predictions ever made.*

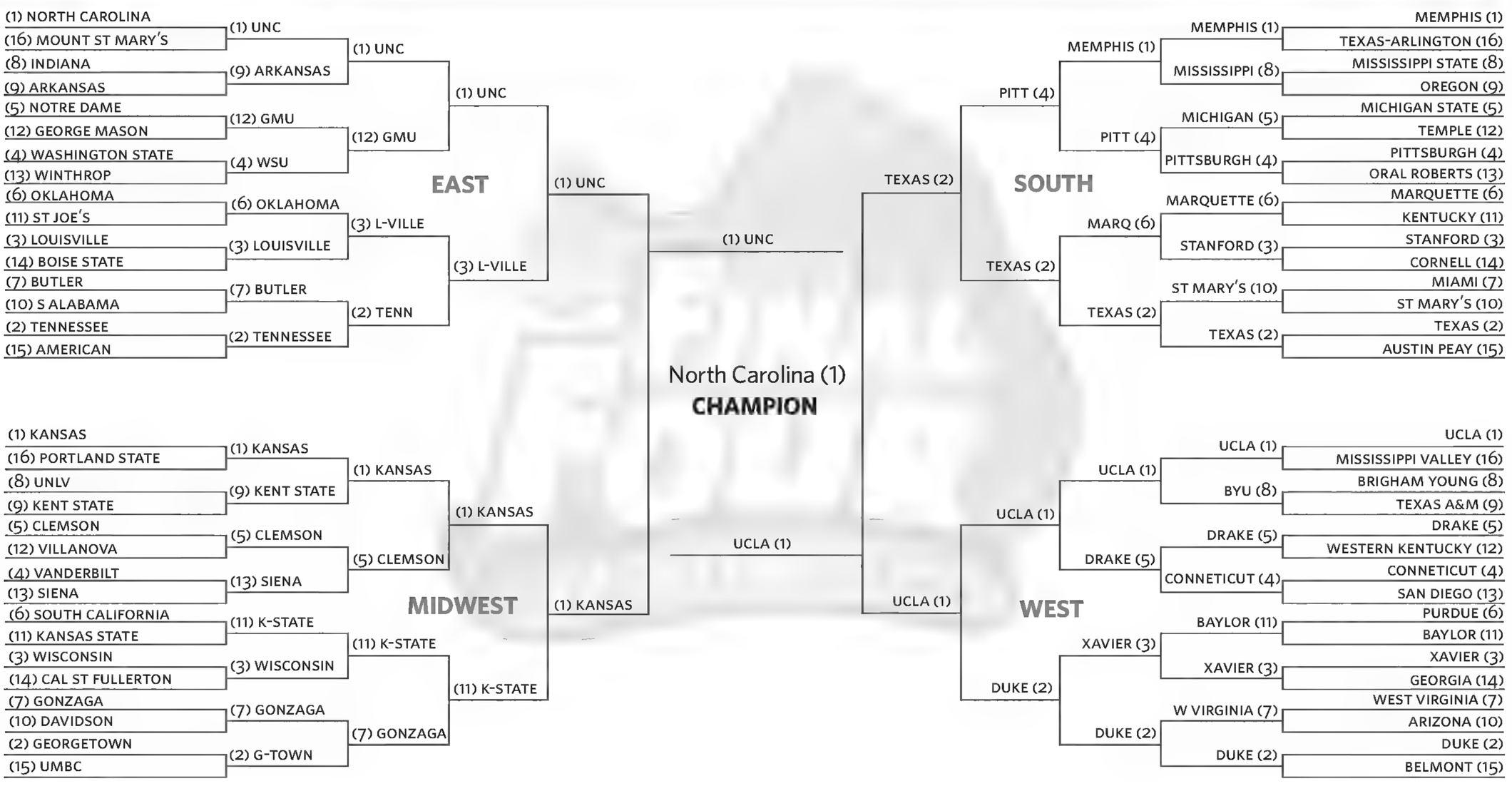
In sport, nothing is ever a 100-per-cent lock. From the New England Patriots to college basketball teams on both sides of the border (the 2005 Fightin' Illini and most recently, the 2008 Carleton Ravens) this lesson has been hammered home. So when I tell you that this tidbit of information that I'm about to share with you is without a doubt, unquestionably, 100-per-cent infallibly correct, I beg you to at least humour me and keep reading. Okay? Okay. I have never, in my life as a basketball fan, picked a winner in the NCAA tournament. There are things that always happen: a twelve-seed will beat a five, all four one-seeds won't make it in, and Dick Vitale will verbally hump the NCAA's leg for the next month to the point that you'll want to punch his diarrhea-spewing face in, bay-bee. But if it's specifics you're after, I won't give them to you. I can't. Tyler Hansbrough is a straight up beast, though.

My pick for the final: North Carolina.

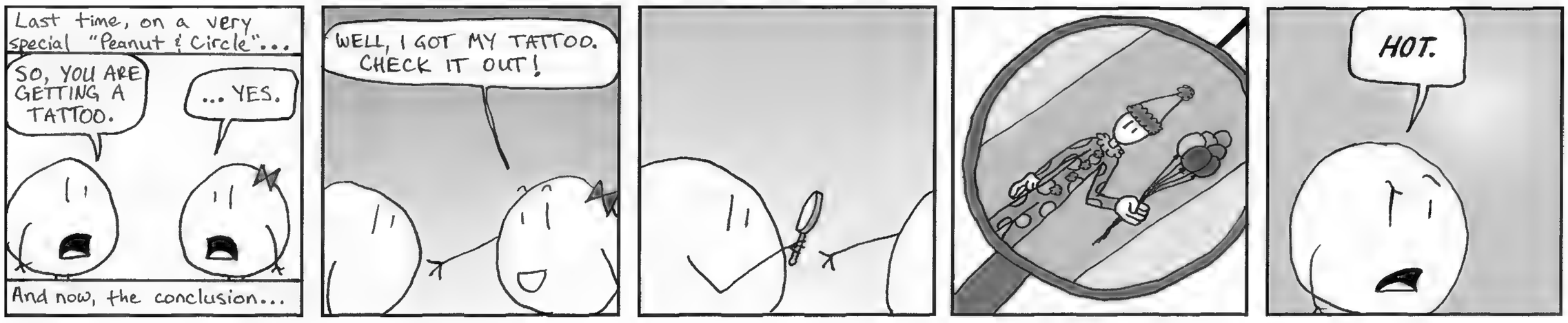
Paul Owen

It's fitting that Chris and I pick the same team to take it all, for almost the same reason, because we're both idiots. But UNC has succeeded on a strong schedule and has the talent and experience to go deep. The way they played without Lawson—especially Hansbrough—makes them incredibly dangerous now that he's returned.

PAUL'S PICKS



PEANUT & CIRCLE by Chris Krause



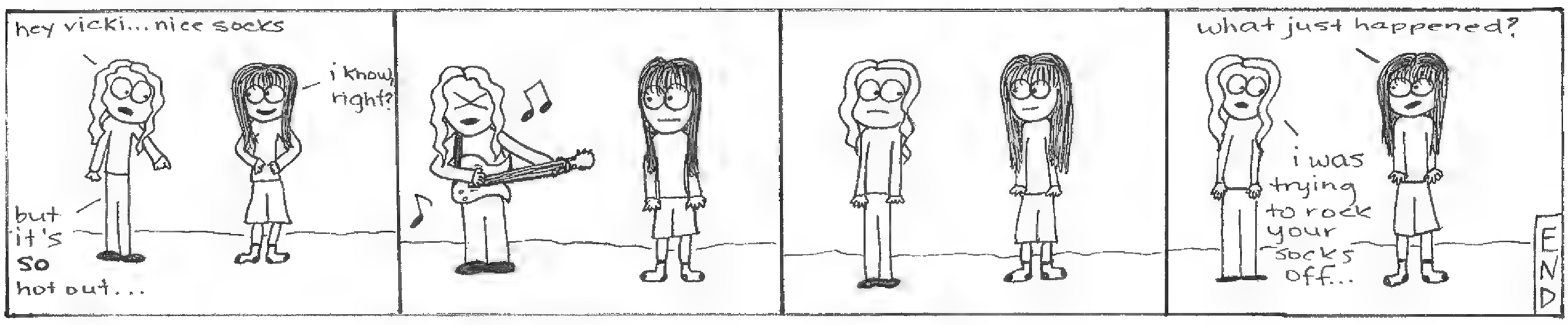
ID & EGO by Lauren Alston



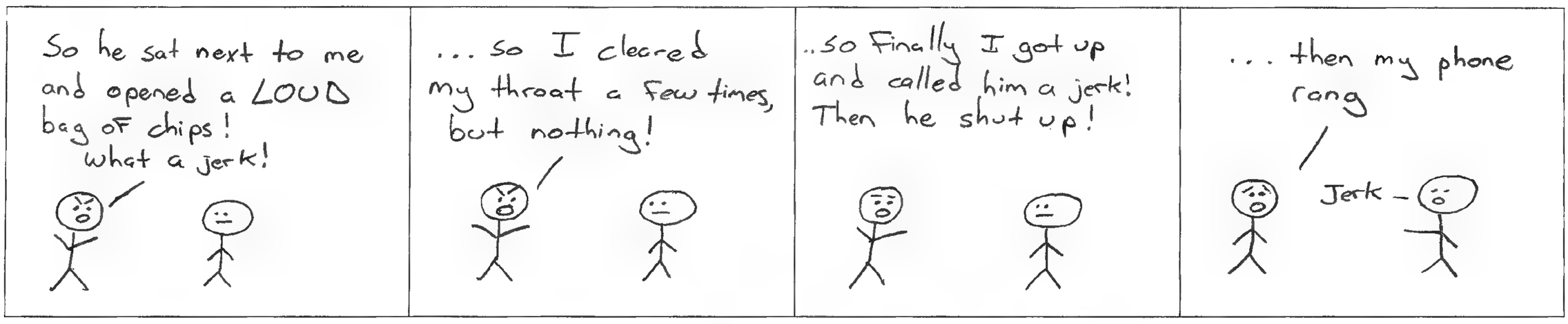
MAN VS NATURE by Conal Pierse



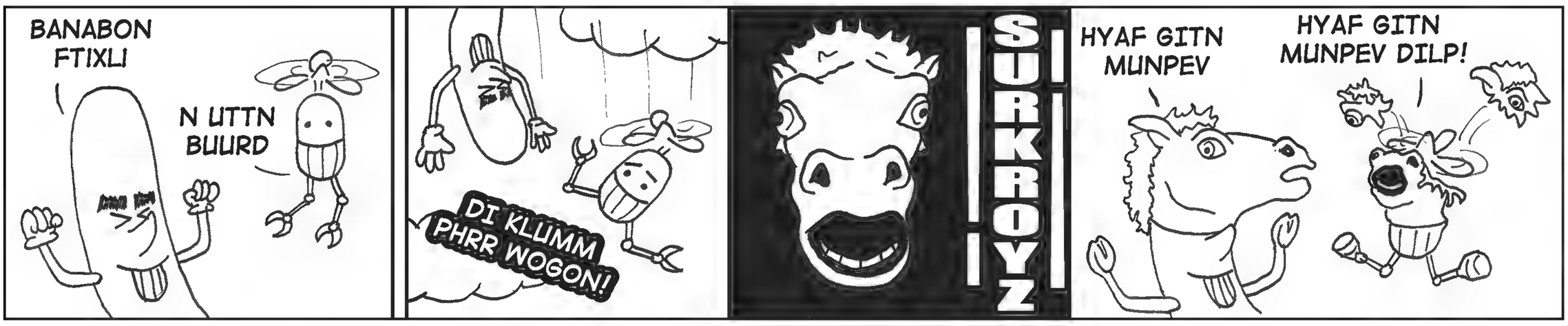
SIGNIFICANT FIGURES by Vicki Olson



PRIMETIME STICKTIME by Michael Manchakowski



RUT-RUT & MEEBLO by Michael Q Kendrick



CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad, please go to www.campusclassifieds.ca

FOR RENT

Looking for a place to live? Check out www.rentingspaces.ca, the student housing registry. Free to search and free for students to post roommate listings!!

Room available 11338-75 ave. Close to university. Just down 114 st. Bus stop 40 meters away. Recently renovated. 2 bathrooms, 2 kitchens. Alley parking. Quiet, safe neighbourhood. Available March 22, 2008. Contact Rob at 780-887-5612 or Dan at 780-265-1487

EMPLOYMENT - FULL TIME

Royal Mayfair Golf Club - Job Fair Saturday, March, 15 & 29 Daily 11am-3pm 9450 Groat Rd (beside Hawrelak Park) 50+ positions - Servers, Grounds, Marshals, Starters, Club & Range Cleaners etc. www.mayfair.ca

Tim Hortons is now hiring for full and part time. We offer higher than average wages! All locations located near and in South Edmonton Commons, easy to get to by bus. Apply at #1, 1850-102 St NW, Edmonton, or call 461-4544.

Chiropractic Assistant Wanted Temp FT, possible perm, reception position in busy Christian wellness based office. Need ministry focused individual. Southside location. 4 days/wk. Will Train. Email resume to insideout@oc.com or fax 780-462-5464

Personal care aide required for male quadriplegic. Weekday and weekend live-in positions available. Semi-flexible hours, plenty of time off available during the day. Good position for part-time student to earn full time wages. No experience required, will train. Valuable experience in healthcare field. Position available through summer and next academic year. Drivers licence required, own car an asset. Contact Mark @ mnowitzki@shaw.ca to apply or for more information

Want to work outside this summer? We are hiring landscaping and lawn maintenance positions, 10 spots available. Contact Trevor @ 267-7645 or gcland@telus.net

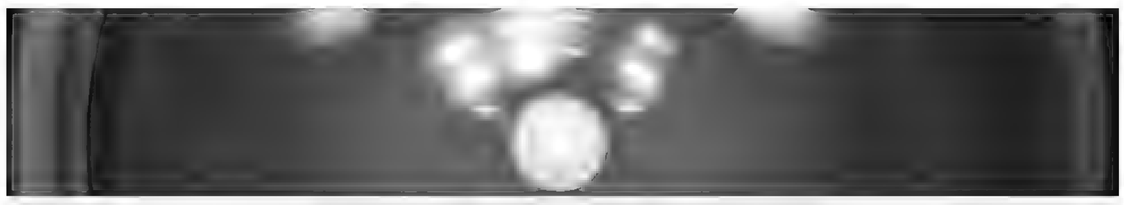
Boat Detailers needed start now! $12-13/hour F/T and P/T, Saturday Shifts Shipwreck Marine 465-5307 dann@shipwreckmarine.com

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Stir Lounge looking for enthusiastic and energetic staff for all positions and shifts. ft/pt. Apply in person with resume to Gary or Brian at 10304-111st.

EMPLOYMENT - PART TIME

Chiropractic Assistant Wanted Temp PT, possible perm, clerical position in Christian wellness based office. Need ministry focused ind. Southside location. 9-16 hrs/wk 3-4 days/wk. Will train. Fax resume to 780-462-5464 or email insideout@oc.com



astronowatch

by Kati Kovacs

It was a sad day on Tuesday for science fiction fans. Arthur C Clarke died in his home in Sri Lanka at the age of 90. Clarke is most widely known for his novel/screenplay *2001: A Space Odyssey*, but has penned more than 100 books on space, science and humanity's future. One of my personal favorites is Childhood's End, which tells of mankind's progress to an interstellar hive mind. I also own a great book about the future colonization of Mars, in which Clarke talks about the obstacles we must overcome before we can live on the surface of the red planet.

Clarke wrote about the concept of communications satellites in 1945, 12 years before the launch of the first artificial satellite, Sputnik. In the same paper he also named a useful orbit for such satellites—the geosynchronous orbit. Clarke was the first one to conceive of such an orbit, where the satellite stays above the same location on the Earth.

Clarke was a visionary. In his words "The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible."

Read some science fiction this weekend, people. Or watch *2001: A Space Odyssey*. It's a long weekend; you've got time.

AstronoWatch is going online! Stay updated on the stars with Kati in her blog at www.thegatewayonline.ca/astronowatch.

"There's no money in poetry, but then there's no poetry in money, either."
—Robert Graves, 1895–1985

100! YEARS
U of A 2008

Student Poetry Contest

(with apologies to Mr. Graves)

1st prize: $1,000 and publication in the 2008 Convocation Programs

2nd prize: $500

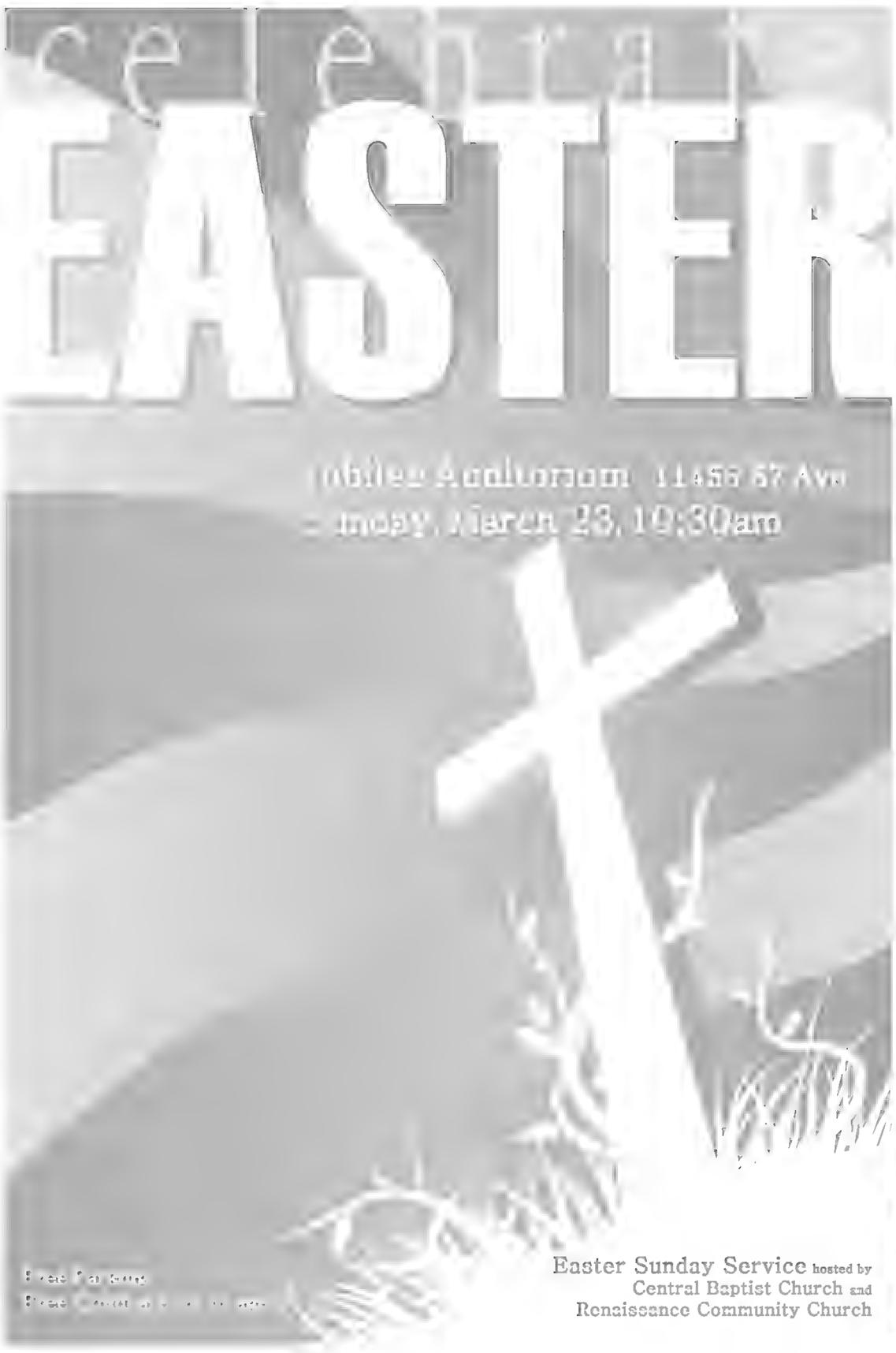
3rd prize: $250

In honour of the University's centenary, the University of Alberta Alumni Association invites students in their graduating year to submit poems inspired by the University's motto, and centenary theme,
"Quaecumque vera — whatsoever things are true."

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION U of A

Contest Deadline: Friday, April 11, 2008

For a complete list of rules visit www.ualberta.ca/alumni/poetry or call 492-7726





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THURSDAY, MARCH 20TH
CAUSE FRIDAY'S A HOLIDAY!

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complaints

Comments, concerns or complaints about the *Gateway*'s content or operations should be first sent to the Editor-in-Chief at the address above. If the Editor-in-Chief is unable to resolve a complaint it may be taken to the Gateway Student Journalism Society's Board of Directors, beyond that appeals to the non-partisan Society Ombuds Board. The chairs of the Board of Directors and the Ombuds Board can be reached at the address above.

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colophon

The *Gateway* is created using Macintosh computers. HP ScanJet flatbed scanners and a Nikon Super Coolscan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images and Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles and weights of **FENICE Joanna, Kepler** and **Whitney**. The *Manitoban* is the *Gateway*'s sister paper and we love her dearly, though not in that way. The *Gateway*'s games of choice are *Alliance Wars, Days of Ruin* and *Easter egg hunts*.

contributors

Cyr Baptist, Lauren Steglitz, Tara Steglitz, Ryan Snippet, Cody Civiero, Nick Frost, Matt Pretty, John Kmech, Sean Steeves, Charlie Crittenden, Ramin Ostad the surviving members of Blind Melon, Anonymale reunited and are working on a new album, Brian Gould, David Johnston, Elizabeth Via, Paul Basphemy, Pants Knoechel, Chris Krause, Lauren Aston, Michael Manchak, Ask Kate, Kosterman, John Gagnon



MIKE OTTO

VOTE OR DIE? MAYBE? Students' Council elections started yesterday and continue today, so you should go talk to the lonely poll clerks—like the ones pictured here.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civiero

THAT'S, LIKE, META-THEFT

Sometime during 8 March, this reporter's bike was stolen from the south entrance of HUB Mall. The bike is red and was secured—apparently poorly—with a yellow combination lock. While I won't go so far as to encourage vigilante justice from my legion of loyal readers, if you have any information regarding this crime, please contact Campus Security Services. I hope they find the guy before I do.

FLYBOYS TOLD TO BUZZ OFF

On 10 March at 7pm, Campus Security received a report of several individuals flying remote-controlled planes in the area of Parklands Farm (120th street and 60th avenue), using the planes to "buzz" neighboring residences. The complainant provided a licence plate number by which CSS peace officers were able to track down one of the flyers. The subject admitted to flying planes in the manner described, apologized, and promised not to do so again in the future.

AT LEAST THEY STILL HAVE THEIR BIKES

Between 10 March and 14 March, Campus Security received several reports of theft from lockers in Fine Arts as well as other areas. Numerous personal items, including laptop computers, were taken.

HIGHER LEARNING

At 5:20pm on 11 March, Campus 5-0 received a report of a male using drugs at the main entrance to the University Terrace building. Upon arrival, the male was identified and found to have been previously dealt with by CSS peace officers. The male was subsequently arrested and charged for trespassing before being removed from campus.

DON'T GET CAUGHT WITH YOUR PANTS DOWN

On 13 March at 10:30pm, a female student called Campus Security to report that she had just been approached by a male with his pants down around his knees near the Powerplant. The male then took off in the direction of the HUB Transit Terminal when the reporter took out her phone to call CSS. The male is described as 5'6", non-white, and middle-aged. He was wearing dark clothing and a dark jacket. If you see this man waddling around, please contact Campus Security immediately.

TOO BAD CARS DON'T RUN ON BULLSHIT

At 2pm on 14 March, Campus Security responded to a report of a male soliciting money under suspicious circumstances in HUB Mall. The male was approaching people in the mall, advising them that his vehicle had run out of gas in the HUB Transit Terminal and asking for gas money. Upon arrival CSS officers identified the male and determined that he didn't even own a vehicle and that there was no vehicle parked at the location where the suspect reported it was. The male, well known to police, was charged with trespassing and removed from campus.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by Steve Smith and Tara Stieglitz

As you may be aware, thefts on campus increase during exams.

If you were a thief—and I'm sure you're not. Or maybe you are, I don't know. My point is that I'm not trying imply that you're a thief. But *if* you were, where and who would you target?



Jean-Marc Jones
Science III

"I guess right here in SUB because there's a lot of people." [*What kind of people would you target?*] "Anybody and everybody." [*Anybody distracted?*] "Not even distracted; I'll go up in front of them and take it anyway."



Shane Ward
Phys Ed/ Education IV

"I'd probably target Jean-Marc because he seems to be so clueless."



Kristy Giacobbo
Phys Ed IV

"I'd target CAB because I see a lot of people in there working on computers, and sometimes they'll leave stuff lying around. CAB or SUB, because people leave valuables unattended all the time."



Derek Preston
Science III

"Probably Bio Sci, because it's so sneaky. It's such a maze that you can just escape undetected and get anywhere in no time." [*You're not afraid of the minotaur?*] "Maybe I am the minotaur." [*I'm pretty sure you're not.*]



U of A professor weighs in on wolf population control in Banff

CODY CIVIERO
News Staff



FILE PHOTO: TARA STIEGLITZ

DON'T CRY, WOLF Mark Boyce has concerns over the proposed wolf cull.

An experiment proposed earlier this month by the University of Alberta has been under fire by some environmentalists groups, being denounced as a "bone-headed wolf cull poorly disguised as research" by James Pissot, executive director of Defenders of Wildlife Canada.

Professor Evelyn Merrill of the U of A's Biological Sciences department has stated that one of the justifications of the project, which involves shooting wolf pups and sterilizing older wolves, would be to provide more elk for hunters.

The experiment is controversial, sparking debate between different governmental organizations. The plan has the support of the provincial government and the Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA), but is opposed by Parks Canada. Maurice Nadeau, president of the AFGA, has expressed concern over shrinking ungulate herds due to predation by wolves, while a spokesman for Parks Canada pointed out that attempts at predator control in the 1960s have created unnaturally high prey densities and other problems that are still prevalent.

Mark Boyce, U of A professor and Alberta Conservation Association Chair in Fisheries & Wildlife, clarified the proposal.

"There is not a proposed cull; there is a proposed research project that would explore ways to try to reduce the cull," he explained. Boyce observed that the current cull is motivated by two factors: livestock depravation and the protection of the Little Smoky caribou herd near Grand Cache.

Boyce noted that a program conducted in the Yukon territories and published in 2004 demonstrated that if the alpha pair in a pack of wolves were sterilized and the pack was reduced to just those two animals, that those two wolves would maintain the territory. The idea is that decreasing the pack size to two wolves would reduce predation while allowing the pack to maintain their territory.

According to Boyce, "It's going to be a very intensive program" involving "heavy manipulation of the local wolf population."

The program is proposed to run for five years beginning in 2009, but Boyce is concerned with the ongoing maintenance of the program, explaining that "the danger of entering a wolf cull program like this is that the minute you stop, the wolf population will rebound. This is the sort of thing that you have to keep up year after year."

Another practical issue raised by Boyce involved the difficulty of detecting the alpha pair. The alpha female would be relatively easy to identify after being seen near a den, but the alpha male would be more difficult to identify, and researchers would have to go by cues such as the wolf having its tail up.

"I'm not in favour of such an intensive proposal, because I don't believe they are a long-term solution," he stated. "Predator control is generally not an effective solution, except for in the short term."

Evelyn Merrill was unavailable for comment.

SU moves to join national lobby group

Membership with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations under works

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

The University of Alberta Students' Union is now on the cusp of joining a federal student lobby group after approving the 2008/09 budget principles on Tuesday, 11 March.

This year's SU executive had been looking into rejoining the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)—an organization it helped found in the early and mid-'90s, but left in 2003—for most of this year, but the passing of next year's budget principles moves them significantly closer.

As Vice-President (External) Steven Dollansky explained, membership is contingent on approval from next year's Council.

"The 2008/09 Council will approve acceptance upon the successful implementation of several improvements to our business and rental operations, which we expect to have in place prior to July 1st," he said.

CASA currently represents over 250 000 students from 19 student associations. The cost of joining the organization will be around $50 000 a year, including associated conference fees. As Dollanksy pointed out, this money will come from a restructuring and re-evaluation of the SU's businesses and operations, though these talks took place *in camera* and specifics could not be provided.

Though joining the organization is pricey, SU President Michael Janz said that the membership is worth it to broaden their advocacy efforts.

"I think for me, what it came down to was that the most important role student unions play for students is to be their spokesperson," he explained, adding that issues such as loan reform and federal scholarships and grants need to be addressed at the national level.

"We can't neglect the role federal advocacy has to play for our organization."

Though the SU has opted to join CASA, a second federal PSE advocacy group, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), was also available for the SU to join. However, Dollansky explained that the decision was fairly easy based on the operation of the two organizations.

"CFS has a number of questionable practices that we haven't looked in to fully, but we felt wasn't a good fit for our campus," he said. "We like the fact that CASA is very member-driven and isn't a dedicated fee. CFS hasn't contacted us since we first came into office, and we've worked very close with CASA and have been very impressed with what we've seen."

CASA national director Zach Churchill said that he's excited to have the U of A rejoin to the organization.

"I'm so encouraged and happy that the U of A Students' Union decided to return to [CASA] as a member. The U of A helped build this organization. It's been too bad that they've been absent from the table for this long, but it's beneficial for everyone now that they're back at the table," Churchill stated.

Churchill went on to explain that, though there's often a misconception that the federal government doesn't play a large role is postsecondary education, there's actually a very strong relation, and it's especially visible in Alberta.

"We see clear correlations between federal spending and what happens in the province of Alberta for students," he explained. "When the federal cuts first happened in the early '90s, Alberta's tuition rose the fastest in the country, and since then it has increased 275 per cent since [...] '93.

"Debt rose at a really fast rate in the province, too. Now over half the students in Alberta who graduate have over $20 000 of debt," he added, noting that the U of A SU's established advocacy department will be a huge asset for the organization—a sentiment that Dollansky agrees with.

"CASA is a good step forward for our advocacy department," he said. "It's providing a tool for us to carry out some of our advocacy efforts to the federal government."







RYAN HEISE

IT'S A SIGN Students want the U of A to address their credit-card concerns.

SU still considering action over credit cards

CREDIT CARDS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SU Vice-President (External) Steven Dollansky said that for the last week student leaders have talked to "as many people as will hear us" about what the impact of the credit card decision will be on students.

Students requested a meeting with U of A President Indira Samarasekera, Dollansky explained; however, she was unable to attend, and instead designated Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Carl Amrhein, communications manager Deborah Holloway, and Phyllis Clark to discuss the matter further. The impromptu meeting took place Tuesday night, at which time Dollansky said students once again laid out to the Administration why they were opposing the issue.

Nevertheless, the removal of the credit card payment option will still be included in the final budget approval, which will take place at the 28 March Board of Governors Meeting.

"I think it's short-sighted and not taking students' concerns and dealing with them seriously," Dollansky said. "I think that it's in both parties best interest to get this right and clearly the approach that's been taken this time is not in the best interest of students, and I would argue not in the best interest of the University."

However, Clark noted that at the meeting some misperceptions in terms of the consultation were addressed, and she noted that the U of A has also compiled an Express News item for its website outlining the entire consultation process that has taken place since November.

"There have been a lot of discussions going on about this. We thought that we had been very clear on this moving forward but we want to make sure that people know that we have been talking to students," Clark said.

But while Graduate Student Association President Julie Charchun said after the Tuesday meeting that she can now "appreciate" where the Administration is coming from, she still feels that this is an issue where student leaders and the University will continue to disagree.

Charchun further stressed that, although these issues are interwoven, she's trying to keep the credit card issue and the issue of consultation separately, because she said more needed to be done to clarify what qualifies as meaningful consultation.

"I think that the University has a different definition of consultation than the definition that I would typically think about or my definition of consultation," Charchun said. "We're talking about the credit card issue, and then we're going to go back and talk about what it is to consult as opposed to have a meeting and tell people what you're doing without giving them any options. Or tell them that you're going to do certain things and then not doing them, that's not consultation either."

Currently, Dollansky said student leaders are "weighing their options" and that they will try to have this portion of the budget removed for the forth-coming fiscal year.

"What we'd like to see is credit card payments stay around forever but we need to get them back to the table for the time being," he said.

Laptops, iPods, and anything small and portable targeted by thieves—Hartwig

THEFTS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"They cannot leave any of their belongings out—even if they go to the bathroom, even if the go to the computer. Unless you're sitting beside a friend that you know very well that can watch your stuff, we don't advise it. A lot of the thefts are done in a split second," she said, adding that the most-targeted items are iPods, laptops, PSPs, CD players, and wallets, as well as clothes, bags, and books.

Students' Union Vice-President (Student Life) Chris Le said that he's aware of the problem, but that it's unfortunate that students have to deal with problems such as this.

"When we have a campus this big, we've got 37 000 students plus faculty and staff, so it's just bound to happen," Le explained. "It's nice to see that students are so trusting, but at the same time it's unfortunate that there are people who will ruin that for students, because people come here to study and to do well, and to have some people commit these thefts is a big obstacle for people here."

Le explained that the SU has installed security cameras in SUB this year in case any altercations or crimes take place in the building, but admitted that because campus is so large, it's almost impossible to keep watch everywhere all the time.

If a student does have something stolen, Hartwig explained that their best course of action is to immediately contact Campus Security Services by phone at 492-5050, or by using the Campus Security button on any Telus campus payphone, and then head over to their office in the Education Car Park to file a report. Leaving things too long will greatly reduce the chances of recovering stolen property.

However, she noted that the best precaution to avoid theft on campus is to avoid the notion that the University exists in a bubble.

"Just because it didn't happen to you doesn't mean it doesn't happen to other people," she stressed.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: CYRIL BALITBIT

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CFS goes to BC Supreme Court to delay Kwantlen referendum

The Canadian Federation of Students goes to the mattresses with Kwantlen College after student leaders moves to discontinue its CFS membership

DAVID KARP
CUP Western Bureau Chief

VANCOUVER (CUP)—The Kwantlen Student Association has been stalled in its attempts to leave the Canadian Federation of Students after the CFS petitioned the BC supreme court to have the referendum delayed.

The CFS-launched petition was heard on 14 March and asked the court to postpone the referendum at Kwantlen College until the fall. The petition failed, delaying the referendum by three weeks.

The judge presiding also accused the CFS of attempting to delay the referendum.

"The sense that I got is that the Canadian Federation of Students representatives have displayed no great alacrity in trying to bring this on in time," said Justice Mark McEwan, an eleven-year veteran of the Supreme Court.

The referendum to pull out of the national lobby group was set to occur on the same days as referenda by the Simon Fraser Students Society and the University of Victoria Graduate Students Society.

CFS lawyer Martin Palleson said the federation would be disadvantaged if the referendum preceded the other two referenda.

"That suggests there's some interest in hamstringing the Canadian Federation of Students," he told the court.

But Canadian Federation of Students chairperson Amanda Aziz said by phone afterwards that their representatives on the oversight committee weren't trying to stall the referendum.

"From our perspective, there could be nothing further from the truth," she said.

The central issue revolved around the referendum oversight committee, a four-person group in charge of overseeing the referendum, including setting a referendum question, determining polling locations, and setting campaign rules.

The CFS and the KSA each appointed two members and the committee, but it quickly became deadlocked on major issues. By 14 March, the committee had not even agreed on a question upon which students could participate in the vote, which was set to begin on 18 March.

"If the oversight committee can't make a decision, you can't just wallow in deadlock," MacEwan said.

CFS representatives on the referendum oversight committee initially proposed a two-page referendum question that asked, "Are you in favour of maintaining formal relations with the students who are members of the following students' unions," proceeding to list the 85 student unions that are members of the CFS.

> **"The Kwantlen Student Association, by taking matters into its own hands, put itself offside, according to the bylaws, which is difficult for the court to ignore after having it brought to its attention."**
>
> **JUSTICE MARK MCEWAN**
> BC SUPREME COURT

With the referendum oversight committee deadlocked, the KSA hired Schiffner Consultants Inc to run the referendum as an independent third party. CFS bylaws also state that the oversight committee must be composed of the two representatives from each side.

"It was that move which was outside the bylaw procedures which prompted the Canadian Federation of Students to bring the petition it brings," McEwan said.

"The Kwantlen Student Association, by taking matters into its own hands, put itself offside, according to the bylaws, which is difficult for the court to ignore after having it brought to its attention."

The judge ruled that the referendum oversight committee will be given another chance to reach an agreement, but McEwan said that he would impose referendum rules if the committee is unable reach an agreement by 20 March.

McEwan rejected the CFS lawyer's argument that the referendum should be postponed until the fall.

"We say that pre-campaigning has led to an unfair election," Palleson said. "It won't be fair and it won't be balanced. We recommend a cooling-off period.

"If we had a longer time where we don't have this early campaigning, my view is that it would result in a fairer vote."

Palleson said it was acceptable to talk about the CFS before the official campaign period—just not to have an organized effort. But McEwan disagreed.

"It's how elections work in the country," he replied. "There are people who campaign in Quebec full time for certain elections. Isn't Kwantlen your Quebec?"

McEwan said if the CFS could prevent pre-campaigning, then it would be impossible to gather a petition with the signatures of 10 per cent of a student body, a requirement for a student union to declare a defederation referendum in the first place.

"Don't we have to have some kind of notion here of the rough and tumble of democracy?" he asked.

KSA lawyer Kieran Siddal asked the judge to set rules for the referendum and allow it to go ahead on Tuesday. But McEwan also rejected that scenario.

"Maybe your faith in judges is too strong," he said.

McEwan ruled that the referendum be postponed to 8–10 April, with two weeks of campaigning to start on 25 March.

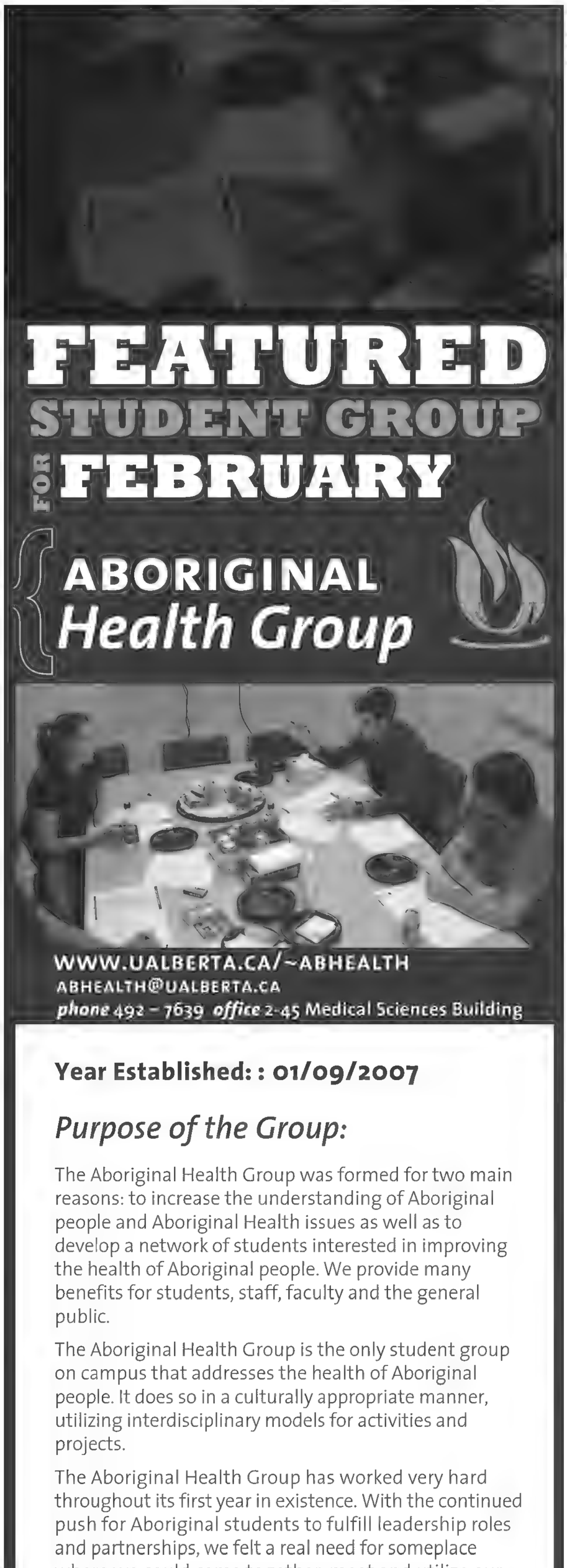
Each side put on their best face after the result.

"My client is pleased that a date is certain for the referendum, and that the process will be overseen by the Supreme Court of BC, and that students will have a chance to get out and vote," said KSA lawyer David Borins.

"We're pleased with the outcome," said CFS president Amanda Aziz, who was not in attendance.

"I think the problem was that when campaigning was supposed to begin, there were no rules established."

Members of the Kwantlen Student Association contribute approximately $3.82 per term for a total of approximately $150 000 in annual membership fees to the Federation.



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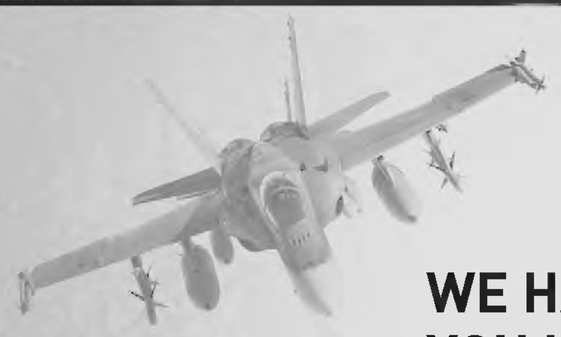
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AS THE FRESH PRINCE ONCE SAID, "UNIVERSITY administrators just don't understand." Okay, so Will Smith was actually referring to parents, but the relationship is similar: you have a group of adults supervising a group of younger people, the results of which can often lead to resentment and even conflict.

Only university students aren't kids—they're responsible, mature adults (for the most part, anyway). Alberta students are particularly easy to please: perhaps owing to our more conservative and industrious mentality, we tend to think of postsecondary education as an investment more than a right, and are generally only too happy to line up and pay for it—provided we can use a credit card, anyway.

But apparently, that's not good enough for this notoriously penny-pinching institution, which is now taking away even that simple little request. Their reasoning—that it will save the University $1.3 million annually—is unconvincing at best, not only because that represents a mere drop in the Butterdome-sized bucket (about 0.33 per cent of their annual budget), nor even because there's no guarantee that this money will be reinvested in student interests, but because if you asked most people, they would probably just as soon eat up the extra expense themselves rather than lose the convenience.

After all, even now that they're capped at inflation, tuition increases are virtually guaranteed to go up at least four per cent annually, so long as the current economic boom continues—what's another 0.88 per cent? That's what $1.3 million divided by 30 000 undergraduate students divided by $4900 in tution fees would be.

Apart from paying exorbitant sums for higher education, U of A students cherish two other things more than any other: partying in Lister and using Facebook. And if the credit card quagmire—as we here at the *Gateway* have inevitably taken to calling it—isn't bad enough, those two inalienable rights are being threatened as well. The Lister debacle started in February with the Administration's attempt to nominate floor coordinators, positions traditionally elected by the residents themselves. And while Listerites may have won that battle, they likely won't win the war—don't be surprised if the University eventually gets its way on the matter.

Elsewhere, in a land of more socially active studentry, university administrators at Ryerson University in Toronto are trying to set a strong precedent in the battle for Facebook ground. Chris Avenir, a first-year student there, was threatened with expulsion and slapped with a failing grade and academic misconduct for running an online study group on the gratingly overanalyzed social networking site. Fortunately for Avenir, his future may have brightened, as intense publicity and swaths of student support has apparently forced the university to soften its position: it was announced yesterday that his expulsion has been repealed, though the academic misconduct charge will stick.

Clearly, every school's academic policies should be re-examined in light of emergent technologies and media that simply couldn't have been conceived of at the time of their writing. But taking a run at an individual group administrator for doing what students would just be doing together in person anyway—and when the other 146 members of the group are just as easily identifiable—is nothing short of scapegoating. And lest you think that this is just a one-off incident in a distant province, make no mistake: this decision will have ramifications for the policies of every postsecondary institution in Canada, including our own.

It takes a lot to rally students these days, especially here in Alberta—we'll unquestioningly accept most of what our academic sugar-daddies, those holders of degrees, dish out to us. But tell us how to spend our money, who gets to boss us around, or what we can do on the Internet, and we're at least temporarily going to stand up for ourselves.

Even if students are ultimately forced to take the credit card decision lying down, given the number of people whose parents pay their tuition fees (and how many air miles are at stake), many parents likely just won't understand—and that may end up helping other kids out in the future.

ADAM GAUMONT
Editor-in-Chief



KATE KOSTERMAN

LETTERS

Students still included

(Re: "Centennial year forgets students," 18 March). I'd like to thank Ryan Heise for highlighting the importance of engaging students in the University's centenary celebrations. The Faculty of Arts is hosting 25 "official" centenary events which we're promoting to students through the university website, the *Gateway*, *Folio*, external media, and other means. I'm proud to say that a large number of these events feature students, or are organized with the hopes of attracting students, faculty, staff and community members equally.

Looking back at the last two months alone, I recall the Choir of Choirs on 10 February and the unforgettable sound of nearly 400 choral singers at the Winspear Centre accompanied by the University Symphony Orchestra. This event celebrated the history of all the major U of A student choruses, and showcased the continuing importance of university activities that bring students from a variety of disciplines together.

Looking forward to the rest of the faculty's centenary calendar, I'm greatly anticipating "Maison de Pension pour Etudiants," a play written by Professor Edouard Sonet, and translated and performed by a current French language class. I hope many students come to Convocation Hall on 2 or 3 May and enjoy this light comedy highlighting student life from an earlier era.

This fall, many of our departments will be bringing in speakers at the top of their disciplines to stretch the limits of our imagination and our understanding of the world. I hope a wide audience will join us to enjoy these distinguished lecturers. As I look through the U of A's centenary calendar of events, I see a huge offering that will engage many publics—including students. Perhaps we need to find more ways of communicating these events to our students, so I'd like to thank the *Gateway* for this additional opportunity. I hope that students will take the time to look around the University and make an effort to get involved. It's their birthday as much as it is ours.

CATHERINE KLOCZKOWSKI
Arts Centenary coordinator

Remember, remember, the students in November

Bravo! I couldn't have expressed the University's shortcomings surrounding the centennial better. It's distressing to see that an institution that wishes to become one of the top 20 in the world is so focused on its past, not its potential. It's time for the University to start recognizing that current students are its lifeblood and future.

I've developed no strong ties with this school in my past two years of attendance. True, I care deeply for my Lister, but it's the LHSA and my floor-mates that make it a great place to live. It's the SU that helps me daily, organizes amazing events, and treats me as a human being, not a number.

The past year has been a series of slaps. The U of A, to be frank, is doing nothing but pissing off students through their alienating methods of government. Wake up, administration. Haven't you noticed that the students are starting to despise current conditions?

HELEN RACINE
Via Email

Check your facts, Blinov, you pie-loving bastard

While I'm not going to argue over the legitimacy of the content presented in *Zeitgeist*, I would like to point out the irony in Paul Blinov denouncing the film as a "fact-warping tirade" when in his own article he presents false information to strengthen his argument (re: "Crackpot *Zeitgeist* over-hyped dribble," 13 March).

He stated that Bill Hicks and George Carlin were used as "sources" for *Zeitgeist*, which makes me wonder if he actually watched it. The reason they're cited is because parts of their respective routines appeared in the movie, not because they're supposed "experts" on the subject. They provided no direct commentary whatsoever. Furthermore, considering that Bill Hicks died in 1994, I doubt he'd have much to say about 9/11. It's this kind of arrogance and oversight that makes *Gateway* editorials so painful to read.

MALCOLM SLATER
Science I

Dare to stand up for your rights, U of A students

In Alberta, the continually growing trend has been towards apathy. This is reflected in the current state of our university community. While students in other countries are put down by riot police using tear gas, we've become passive and docile—the shame of those who fought valiantly before us, and those who fight now. When we fail to speak up we acquiesce to the administration and they can make decisions such as the recent choice to no longer allow credit card payments to the University. The only way to prevent this from happening is to get involved.

While there's an event in the planning stages to protest this nearly unilateral decision by the University, I have a good feeling that only many tens of people are going to actually show up. Without the collective voice of students speaking up and opposing this we won't be heard. It's up to us, individually, to stand up for our student rights. While the SU and other student advocacy groups can do this for us some of the time, we must eventually take responsibility ourselves, because out in the real world there won't always be someone there to fight our battles for us.

I encourage all students opposed to this ruling by the University administration to go to this protest on 20 March. I encourage all students who agree with the administration to have your voice heard as well. It doesn't matter what your opinion is, just get out and say something. Make our small little democracy work. Think of it as practice for the future, for the real world where civil and human rights, not tuition fees and payment options could be at stake.

MISHA MIAZGA-RODRIGUEZ
Science II

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway *reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The* Gateway *also reserves the right to publish letters online.*

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student ID number to be considered for publication.

Also, remember that sharp knives are sharps. Play safe, kids.

Students' Union

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Operations Coordinator Description: The Operations Cooridnator at InfoLink: Academic and Information Services is responsible to the Manager and will perform the following duties including, but not limited to: handling and reconciling all cash, debit and credit card transactions from the main office and four satellite information desks; distribution of tickets for campus events as well as U-Passes, movie passes and bus tickets. In addition, the Operations Coordinators will be responsible for specific projects as assigned by the Manager. All Coordinators will share responsibility for day-to-day staff supervision and management.
Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, April 9 starting at 4:30pm

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Interviews Scheduled for Wednesday, April 9 starting at 4:30pm

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Remuneration: $367 - August
$735 - September to April

Description: The AD is responsible for the technical component of the service, upkeep and maintenance of equipment, providing supplemental training for dispatch volunteers and other duties as outlined in the employment contract and as may be specified by time to time by the Director of Safewalk.
Interviews scheduled for Friday, April 11, starting at 4:30pm.

Centre For Student Development – *Administrative Coordinator*

Term: May 1, 2008 – April 30, 2009
Hours: May 1, 2008 – August 31, 2008 (35 hours/wk)
September 1 – April 30, 2009 (25 hours/week)
Remuneration: May 1,2008 – August 31, 2008 ($1428/month)
September 1, 2008 - April 30, 2009 ($1169/month)

Description: The main duty of the AC is liaising with the public for Orientation 2007 and Campus Ambassadors, as well as coordinating registrations and campus tours, booking rooms, and providing support for all CSD programs. Expertise in the following areas would be considered assets: database experience, working with the public, some office administrative experience and an understanding of the programs offered through the CSD.
Interviews scheduled for Friday, April 7, starting at 8:00pm.

Associate Director – ECOS

Term: May 1, 2008 – April 30, 2009
Hours: 10 hours/week
Remuneration: $375/month

Description: The ECOS Associate Director will perform the following duties including but not limited to; the managing and coordination of ECOS volunteers, providing assistance in the research, development, and facilitation of the ECOS projects. In addition, the ECOS Associate Director will work on specific projects at the direction of the ECOS Director.
Interviews scheduled for Thursday, April 10, starting at 7:00pm.

Campus Ambassador Coordinator

Term: May 1, 2008 – April 30, 2009
Hours: May 1, 2008 – August 31, 2008 (35 hours/week)
September 1 – April 30, 2009 (25 hours/week)
Remuneration: May 1, 2008 – August 31, 2008 ($1428/month)
September 1, 2008 – April 30, 2009 ($1169/month)

Description: The CAC is responsible for coordinating and marketing the Campus Ambassador Program including all campus tours and First Year Initiative student for a day program. Responsibilities also include recruitment and training of all volunteer tour guides and First Year Initiative mentors. On a daily basis the CAC is responsible for booking tours with interested parties, and ensuring that tours booked through their office as well as the Registrar and Student Awards are assigned a Campus Ambassador tour guide.
Interviews scheduled for Friday, April 11 starting at 7:00pm

Associate Director – *Student Group Services*

Term: August 1, 2008 – April 30, 2009
Hours: August 1 – 31, 2008 & April 1 – 30, 2009 (10hours/week)
September 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009 (20 hours/week)
Remuneration: August 1 – 31, 2008 & April 1 – 30, 2009 ($376/month)
September 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009 ($754/month)

Description: The Student Group Services Associate Director is responsible to the Student Group Services Director and assists in promoting cooperation and coordination among Student Groups. This individual will also aid in the daily administrative operations of the Student Group Services office including, but not limited to the regular updating of the Student Group Services Database, updating the service website. and assisting with the registration and granting processes.
Interviews scheduled for Thursday, April 10, starting at 4:30pm.

Student Distress Centre – *Associate Directors (2 Positions available)*

Term: August 1, 2008 – April 30, 2009
Hours: 10 hours/week
Remuneration: $375/month

Description: The SDC Associate Directors are responsible to the SDC Director and works closely with the Director in overseeing the organization and operations of SDC. While sharing many similar duties such as interviewing, training and appreciating volunteers, there are individual responsibilities allocated to each Associate Director. One Associate Director is responsible for volunteer scheduling and resource library management, and the other is responsible for updating call/drop-in statistics and organizing education and awareness booths. In your cover letter for these positions please indicate which position you are most interested in.
Interviews scheduled for Monday, April 7, starting at 4:30pm.

University Policy and Information Officer (Advocacy Department)

Term: May 1, 2008– April 30, 2009
Hours: 25 hours/week (may be FT for summer pending grants)
Remuneration: $1,181.83/mo (under review)

This is a research, analysis, record keeping and strategy position within the SU's advocacy department, which together with the other members of the department supports the university relations, media relations and campus communications initiatives of the executive committee. The UPIO reports to the Advocacy Director.
Interviews schedules pending

External Policy and Information Officer (Advocacy Department)

Term: May 1, 2008 - April 30, 2009
Hours: 25 hours/week (may be FT for summer pending grants)
Remuneration: $1,181.83/mo (under review)

This is a research, record keeping and strategy position within the SU's advocacy department, which together with the other members of the department supports the government relations, media relations and campus communications initiatives of the executive committee. The EPIO reports to the Advocacy Director.
Interviews schedules pending

Biofuel not the magic bullet



BRIAN GOULD

"Across the board, alternative fuels depend on infrastructure, from refineries to service stations, and I'd love to see someone try to build a new turbine using only wind power. It's unlikely that the current generation of alternative fuels we have would be able to power their own deployment, let alone the world."

With all the hype that's been building over over biofuels in the last few years, I've been waiting and hoping for someone to finally put an end to the nonsense. Two studies published last month went the furthest yet by concluding that widespread biofuel production would lead to an overall increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

However, this shouldn't come as a surprise. Land for growing the biomass requires deforestation on a huge scale—assuming, of course, we even have enough land. And it only gets worse: the UN is warning that African food prices are now tied to fuel prices, and in what will be yet another struggle between the rich and poor, the result is a foregone conclusion.

When someone like George W Bush jumps on board, you know biofuels aren't about anything but oil independence. Only the most rosy-glassed ecologists would believe that the Bush administration actually cares about the environment—more likely, they're just trying to appease "Big Corn" with subsidies and maybe avoiding a war or two over Middle-Eastern oil.

It's just another in the long list of alternative fuel sources that are supposed to save us all, but are really just PR campaigns and hand-waving by energy companies, governments, and media outlets who are too scared to tell the public what they don't want to hear: we're going to need to reduce consumption. With enough investment in research, there's still the potential for a solution, but the reality is that we're still a long way off.

This doesn't just go for biofuels, either. Alternative energies almost uniformly have problems, whether the peaking issues of solar and wind or locational constraints of geothermal. Each of these, among others, is viable on a small scale in a cheap fuel era, but probably won't be the quick global fix that we're all looking for.

Hydrogen is great in theory, as the emissions are pure water. Unfortunately, that view fails to take the full picture into account. Using electricity to split water so that we can generate electricity by reforming it is a perpetual motion fantasy, meaning hydrogen fuel cells are at best batteries. At worst, they're expensive, inefficient, exploding batteries. Certainly, if we can find another way to produce hydrogen, there's hope, but until that time hydrogen isn't terribly useful.

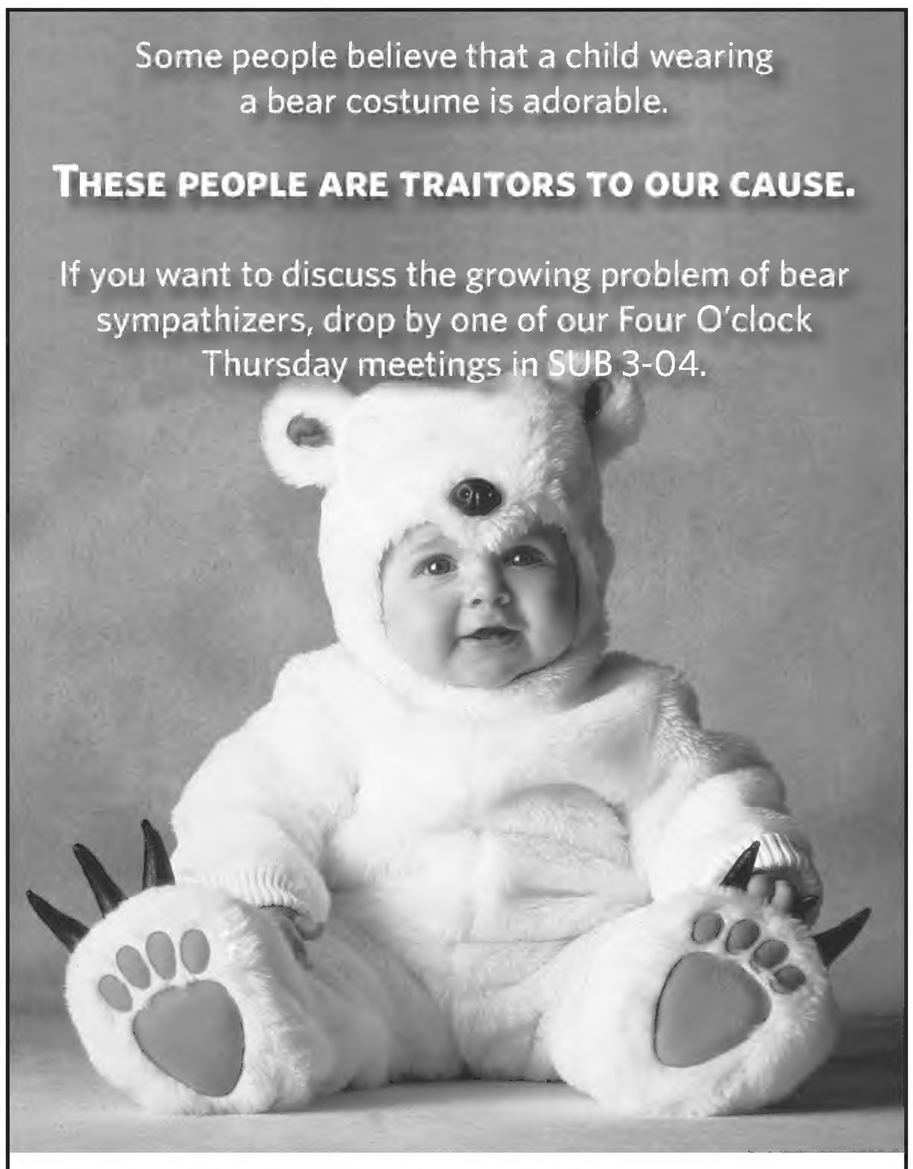
For better or worse, nuclear energy is one of the few certainties. We have the fuel, we have the technology, and if we're desperate it will be there. Waste will be a problem, as will weaponization, but the reality is that nuclear is one of the few sources of energy that is just sitting there waiting, and if nothing else pans out, don't be surprised if we end up relying more on fission. Unfortunately, uranium too is a limited resource, and there are no guarantees.

The main problem with alternative energies is the complete lack of objectivity. Subsidies are warping the picture from environmental concern to plain old greed—if someone paid me a million dollars I'd start pumping out corn ethanol too. The trouble is, I'd probably do it the same way as everyone else: with petroleum products. I'm not just talking diesel trucks and tractors, but fertilizers, irrigation, processing, and distribution. Current farm production levels are hostage to cheap energy, and adding competition for land and resources certainly won't help.

It's virtually impossible to isolate each of these fuels and properly evaluate them. About the only way would be to put them in their own bubble and completely cut off the outside world. Across the board, alternative fuels depend on infrastructure, from refineries to service stations, and I'd love to see someone try to build a new turbine using only wind power. It's unlikely that the current generation of alternative fuels we have would be able to power their own deployment, let alone the world. If they're unleashed across the globe, there's no telling what the long-term side effects would be.

The automotive industry and consumers are very focused on a set of well-defined variables—power, speed, size, and the like—but there are no objective measures for impact. Mileage breaks down as soon as you start talking about different fuels, and it doesn't capture things like the impacts of manufacturing or disposing of batteries for hybrids. There's no easy way to compare different types of pollution, and car dealership statistics certainly don't include things like "years of life lost," "countries exploited," or "children's futures sold."

The green movement suffers from marketing spin, which makes it impossible to compare products. Neglect the disadvantages, pump up the advantages, and let the magic happen. Narrow the focus enough and I'm sure someone could come up with some good things to say about fossil fuels—such as how they're just waiting to be exploited. Mark Twain's claim of "lies, damned lies, and statistics" is appropriate, and we could find ourselves back in the world of Tom Sawyer if we retool our economy around a dud.



Why can't ETS, STAT just get along?



DAVID JOHNSTON

I like riding the bus. I enjoy sitting and watching people, and I'm fond of the feeling of transferring from one to another like clockwork. Now that I've been taking it for almost six years, I'm getting good at picking the right seats. In the past month, though, I've been branching out and taking more varied routes of transit service in lieu of my usual monotonous pattern. So when I was approached twice last week to take place in an assessment of transit systems—a St Albert Transit rider's survey and a customer tutorial of the electronic route planner at the Churchill LRT station—I was more than happy to oblige.

Like I said, I enjoy riding the bus. It's one of the few transportation methods for a St Albert-based student without a driver's license. There are alternatives, such as taxis, which are very good at getting you from Point A to Point B—assuming B stands for "broke." There's also carpooling, which is unlikely given that the only St Albertan students I know with a car are a couple prone to public displays of affection. And because I know you're reading this, Yolanda, I don't care about the flavour of his tonsils or how it sounds like a bear when you two hum into each other's mouths, because there are some things I just don't need to know.

Because of this, I've come to rely on buses—which, for the most part, tend to work. St Albert Transit (STAT) and Edmonton Transit System (ETS) are both very good systems—independently, that is. The problem is that they don't communicate well with each other, and that's a serious problem given how much their mandates overlap. The brand-spanking new ETS electronic route planners, for instance, describe ETS in great detail, but don't even acknowledge the existence of any other systems from St Albert to Strathcona and in between. During the tutorial, my repeated requests about STAT schedules were met with polite condolences and nothing more.

Likewise, STAT's survey had not one word about ETS bus routes, schedules, or transfers, despite the high number of multi-system commuters. It's basically impossible to use STAT to get anywhere specific in Edmonton on a weekend, for example, and especially after 5pm. ETS transfers are necessary, but they don't come up anywhere on the mandate. There are several other transit systems in the area, but the STAT/ETS dischord represents a problem common to all of them.

Visiting their websites is equally uninspiring. STAT and ETS make brief mentions or links to each other, but they don't have what's really necessary: an overview or direct link to each other's schedules, or some form of electronic route planner that takes all systems into consideration. We've all got a U-Pass now, which can be used on both—so shouldn't there be an easier system that enables us to use both to get around?

Unfortunately, since the two each refuse to admit that they're not the primary transit service for every rider, miscommunications are inevitable, which is how one winds up stranded on campus at two in the morning with no feasible alternatives. Not that I'm bitter.

I still like riding the bus and I'll probably continue to do so, but if STAT and ETS could just learn to play nice with each other, I, along with a good deal of other people, would be a lot happier. Otherwise I'm going to have to start relying on Mr and Mrs Tonsil Hockey, and no one wants that—*especially* me.

